Daily Report

Latin America

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Central American Presidents' News Conference

PA1502181989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Unattributed report on news conference by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo with unidentified reporters at Tesoro Beach Hotel's Galeon Restaurant in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, on 14 February—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The five Central American presidents signed the document that resulted from the long working sessions held during this presidential summit. During the question-and-answer period offered by the presidents, Honduran President Azcona said Nicaraguan President Ortega's proposal to seek the repatriation of the contras to Nicaraguan territory had been made in Caracas and that it had been decided that the Central American presidents would back it.

[Azcona] "We received President Ortega's proposal, and we were very frank at that time. We told him that problem had to be solved with the concurrence of all the Central American countries, and even with international cooperation.

"When we brought up this aspect during the negotiations yesterday and today, it was approved by all the presidents; this is how the part of the joint declaration reads: In accordance with the Nicaraguan president's proposal and the Honduran president's initiative, the Central American presidents have pledged to draft a joint plan to voluntarily demobilize, repatriate, or relocate members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their relatives to Nicaragua or third countries within a 90-day period. To this end, they will seek the technical advice of UN experts.

"We believe that with the concurrence of all Central American presidents—as stated here and as a commitment made here by signing this document now—and with the help or technical advice of specialized UN organizations, it will be easy to solve this problem.

"To Honduras, this is the solution to a problem that has been affecting us for some time."

[Announcer] Azcona also maintained the United States would back this resolution, just as it supported the Esquipulas II plan.

[Azcona] "We feel we have made a decision for the sake of the five Central American countries. We also believe the United States, just as it respected Esquipulas II and the Alajuela declaration—which undoubtedly served for the rejection of more military aid for the contras—will respect the agreement we signed today. We also believe we are helping the United States, because the ultimate goal should be the democratization and thus the pacification of the Central American area."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez said the proposal that the FMLN presented to him is the same one presented to the government, the Armed Forces, and the political parties in El Salvador.

[Arias] "What certain companeros, FMLN members, presented to me in Costa Rica is known to the world. They presented the same proposals they offered to President Duarte's government, which Salvadoran society knows very well and which are being discussed by the political parties of this country. Nothing additional was added to it."

[Announcer] Arias also stated that despite the difficulties on the path to peace, we have made positive progress in the democratization of Central America.

[Arias] "We are making a great effort every day; although it is a difficult path, we have been advancing on it—perhaps too slowly, but we have been advancing toward the strengthening of democracy in Central America. Today, at this meeting, we advanced on something very specific: the commitment President Ortega made to hold elections in February 1990.

"This is another indication that there is a will. It is another sign that we are giving to the world, that in Central America we are fully convinced that we must silence weapons to open the path of reconciliation through the democratic system. I believe that here, in this country, an effort has been made in the past few years to give the opportunity to the Salvadoran people to choose their future leaders in the polls. What we did was to respectfully ask the FMLN members to follow that path."

[Announcer] The Costa Rican president said there can be no setbacks on the path to peace because dialogue always produces miracles. He maintained that very important agreements were reached at this summit.

[Arias] "I have always believed that, despite difficulties, obstacles, and many problems, there can be no setbacks on the path to peace. For this reason, I said I was certain—I mentioned this when I arrived in this beautiful and dear country—that we were going to reach important agreements that would allow us to move toward the establishment of democratic, free regimes that can enjoy peace in this region.

"The dialogue was, once more, miraculous. We had not met for a year. The lesson we learned from this meeting—after reaching undoubtedly important agreements and seeing the sincerity of the effort for democracy and peace in the region—is that we should meet more frequently.

"We created the expectations we did because more than 12 months went by without a meeting. No one feels disappointed today. More could have been expected, but some people will never be satisfied.

"We have progressed as much as we have been able to. Reconciling different views and interests, as well as different ways of interpreting the Central American situation, is not easy.

"We found the determination to reach agreements, and we reached very important agreements. You heard the unilateral commitments made by certain countries. President Azcona just explained the commitment he made to try to relocate, repatriate, and demobilize the contras who are in his country. You heard the commitment President Ortega made to call elections and to make important legislative reforms to guarantee equal opportunities for all political parties.

"You heard unilateral commitments here that are truly significant. These commitments allow us to realize that the flame we lit in Esquipulas in August 1987 will not die out."

[Announcer] For his part, Nicaraguan President Ortega reaffirmed the commitment that Nicaragua made at this summit. He said his country will hold elections in 1990.

[Ortega] "The Nicaraguan people participated in general elections in 1984. By holding elections on 25 February 1990, the Nicaraguan people will again vote, express their will, decide, and exercise power. They will determine who will lead the Nicaraguan Government. That is what will happen in 1990.

"We reached agreements that are clearly explained in the final document. We must now take specific steps to make progress in implementing our agreements. The main thing we must have is political resolve. In the final document, the five Central American presidents have expressed a desire to have that resolve."

[Announcer] President Ortega also promised to let the Nicaraguan people enjoy true freedom of the press.

[Ortega] "We have already taken steps through which we have told radio station owners they can resume the newscasts that had been banned. That decision was made after my meeting with various Nicaraguan political party leaders. As for the other points that deal with free access to the media, including television, they will be discussed to provide confidence and security to all Nicaraguans."

[Announcer] Daniel Ortega acknowledged that Nicaragua cannot ignore the wishes of the other Central American governments.

[Ortega] "I believe this summit reasserted the Central American peoples' desire for peace. The Central American leaders cannot ignore that hope. In the case of Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan people, who have suffered so much throughout these years.... [Ortega changes thought] I am sure that thanks to the unity of the Central American peoples, from this moment on, any restrictions regarding visas will be eliminated, and any Central American citizen can enter Nicaragua without having a visa. We must destroy all those barriers. The Central American Parliament is a very important element that will help us eliminate those barriers. I believe that in upcoming Central American summits, we will have the opportunity to discuss other topics and aspects. This way, we will fully implement the Esquipulas II peace agreement."

[Announcer] In his statements, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said that he fully believes in the Central American presidents and that Esquipulas II will receive effective support.

[Cerezo] "I truly trust all the Central American presidents and have no reason to doubt their word, especially their will to further peace in Central America. The truth is that events are imposing peace on us. To do the contrary, to continue violence, is to go against development and the solution to region's economic and social problems. For a long time, we have been overcoming problems, confirming that we have the will to do so and making progress in our search for peace. We reached the Esquipulas II agreements that frankly set the bases for a new phase in international policy. Now we talk about negotiation, and the mechanism of confrontation and war is rejected. I believe this agreement will allow us to attain what we have wanted for a long time, but, specifically, it will establish concrete facts that will show we are advancing in our search for peace, and it will allow sectors that previously were not included to join the process. I trust the presidents totally, but, besides that, there is a mechanism that will effectively show if there is a will to comply with the agreements, and the international community will be the one empowered to make a value judgement on this matter. I personally believe we have taken a firm step forward in the search for peace and democracy in Central America, and as President Arias stated, we have confirmed that we can make miracles through dialogue and that confrontation has proven to be useless."

[Announcer] Answering a question on why Nicaragua had changed its election schedule to 1990, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte stated that the FMLN petition that El Salvador's elections be postponed from 19 March to 15 September cannot be accepted because it is an entirely different case. [sentence as heard]

[Duarte] "In El Salvador, the proposal presently being discussed by the political parties does not allow the government to interfere in the electoral process but gives the authority directly to the Central Electoral Council and to the political parties, except if they (?apply) a law that would give the authority to the Legislative Assembly. We would also have to explain that the electoral process has already been established.

"The Nicaraguan Government is talking about elections in 1990; more than a year from now. Here, the proposal is being presented less than 45 days from the scheduled election date, when all the mechanisms have been set to hold elections. We have already held five elections in our system and have shown our process advances toward democratization. The FMLN's acceptance of the electoral process, as a reference to find a way to join the process, is indeed an advancement. Therefore, the agreement we have reached here on this matter clearly states that there is a search for the elements necessary to find the road to incorporate into society all those who are somehow linked to rebel movements. It is applicable to El Salvador when it states the presidents urge all sectors, especially the rebel movements and irregular forces in the region, to join the constitutional political process of each country. This is how the Esquipulas II agreement stands, and here we have backed this position that all sectors join the constitutional political process of each country. In this regard, the document calls on all Salvadoran sectors to participate in the upcoming elections. It specifically refers to these Salvadoran elections. Thus, at this time, the process is the responsibility of the political parties who are presently discussing and trying to reach an agreement so we may find an opening, within the constitutional framework, to allow all sectors, especially those who are up in arms, to abandon violence and join the democratic process."

[Announcer] President Duarte publicly thanked the international and domestic media representatives who patiently waited for the presidential summit to end at the Tesoro Beach Hotel.

Contras Consider Summit Agreement 'Triumph'

PA1502135189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] leaders yesterday described the agreements signed by the Central American presidents as a "triumph" for the RN.

At a news conference attended by most members of the RN Board of Directors, Adolfo Calero, one of the contra leaders, said "the declaration approved by the summit is a triumph for the RN." The contra leader said his organization "is willing to trade weapons for democracy."

Calero noted that the Sandinists "accepted many of our proposals" in the declaration signed by the five presidents at the end of the summit.

The declaration binds the Sandinists to holding elections before 25 February 1990. The Managua government also will have to hold the elections under international supervision and after major legislative reforms are approved. The declaration proposes that the Central American presidents draft, in less than 90 days, a "plan for the demobilization, repatriation, or relocation" of contras who are currently in Honduras.

Alfredo Cesar, leader of another contra faction, agreed with Calero's positive appraisal of the summit and expressed his firm willingness to resume his political career in Nicaragua. Cesar, who held a separate news conference, remarked: "We will return (to Nicaragua) when the Sandinists comply with the agreements."

Cesar said he would participate in the elections if the legislative reforms agreed to by the Sandinists at the summit are approved. He proposed "a single opposition ticket" to run against the Sandinists.

Both Calero and Cesar demanded that the RN directly participate in drafting a plan for dismantling the contras. Calero criticized the lack of a "partial amnesty" among the commitments made by Nicaragua. "There is no reference to the release of thousands of political prisoners," Calero stressed.

The summit agreements include an upcoming "release of prisoners," including former Somozist guardsmen and contra fighters, without specifying how many will be set free. Calero also demanded "the dismantling of Sandinist repressive organizations."

Present at the same news conference as Calero was Enrique Bermudez, the contras' military commander. Bermudez said his fighters have a "high morale" and "are willing to fight." Bermudez added that "the contras will cease to exist when there is democracy (in Nicaragua) and when the dictatorship is buried."

"We are studying other alternatives in case (Daniel) Ortega does not comply with the agreements," Bermudez noted. He added that the contras can "look for weapons outside the United States" if that country refuses to give the contras weapons and if the Sandinists do not democratize Nicaragua. Bermudez emphasized that the contras have approximately 3,000 men "spread" throughout Nicaragua and 12,000 in Honduras.

Correction to Presidents Joint Declaration

PA1602163289

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Presidents End Summit With 'Joint Declaration,'" published in the 15 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 2:

page 2, column two, penultimate paragraph, make subslug read: ...["Joint declaration" issued by the five Central American presidents at the Tesoro Beach Hotel in El Salvador on 14 February] (omitting extraneous words)

page 3, column one, penultimate paragraph, only sentence make read: ...within 90 days, a joint plan to voluntarily demobilize, repatriate, or relocate members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their relatives to Nicaragua or third countries. [new graf]

To this end...(rewording)

Cuba

Education Protocol Signed With Soviet Ministry

FL1502140589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Last night in Havana, a cooperation protocol was signed between the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the RSFSR and the Ministry of Higher Education of Cuba.

The document was signed by I.F. Obraztsov, minister of higher and secondary specialized education, and Fernando Vecino Alegret, minister of higher education of Cuba.

The protocol agrees to develop the integral training of Cuban specialists in the RSFSR and establishes the carrying-out of joint scientific research, as well as other matters.

Vecino Alegret said that more than half of the Cuban students in the USSR are trained in the RSFSR and that this is a new step in cooperation between the two ministries.

For his part, the Soviet minister said that during his visit, they analyzed fundamental matters in the quality of scientific developments in all directorates and that this document offers excellent possibilities for the higher education of the two nations.

Soviet, Albanian Officials Visit Genetic Farm

FL1502221089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] A Soviet delegation headed by Prof Aleksandr Yakolev of the Leningrad Molecular Cytogenetic Laboratory of the Institute for Animal Breeding in (?Farming) and Genetics, visited the special genetic farm known as Valles de Picadura.

The Soviet delegation toured the embryonic transfer laboratory where they expressed interest in exchanging expertise on the technology used in this procedure.

The ambassador of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in Cuba, Clirim Cepani, and his delegation also visited the livestock installations, the embryo transplant laboratory, and the "Pena de Leon" and "Victoria de Vietnam" communities in Valles de Picadura where they were welcomed by peasants and residents.

The diplomat and his delegation were able to observe the socioeconomic achievements of the Cubans after the triumph of the revolution.

Rafael Rodriguez Meets Guinea Foreign Minister

FL1502131089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez received in Havana Guinea Foreign Minister Jean Traore, who is on an official and friendly visit to Cuba.

In the meeting, the officials discussed topics related to the Third World's grave economic situation. Carlos Rafael and Traore also discussed subjects dealing with the African continent, especially in the southern region.

The functionaries of Cuba and Guinea expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation that has been going on between the 2 countries for more than 25 years.

At the same time, the officials noted their countries' willingness and interest to continue expanding those relations. Previously, the Guinea foreign minister held a working meeting with Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Traore Satisfied With Training

FL1502154989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1515 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The foreign minister of the Republic of Guinea, Commander Jean Traore, and the delegation that accompanies him had a working meeting with Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The officials studied the carrying out of the cooperation agreements that were reached in the last intergovernmental commission that was held in Havana in November 1987. Traore expressed his government's satisfaction with the quality of the Guinea technicians and professionals trained in Cuba.

Malian President To Make Official Visit 19 Feb

FL1502125889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Army General Moussa Traore, president of Mali, will make an official visit to Cuba on 19 February. The Malian president will be visiting our nation at the invitation of President Fidel Castro. During his 4-day visit, Traore will hold meetings with Fidel and visit places of economic, cultural, and historical interest.

The Malian chief of state is also president of the African Unity Organization, OUA.

Mexican Businessmen Arrested for '1987 Crash'

FL1502223389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2048 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Political and financial leaders, political parties, and other sectors have expressed approval for the Mexican Government's decision to imprison four prominent businessmen who are principally responsible for the so-called 1987 Stock Market Crash [preceding word as heard in English].

The detainees stand accused of fraud and patrimonial damage and they have been declared responsible for the infamous 1987 crash which ruined thousands of small and intermediate investors in Mexico.

Deputy Finance Secretary Guillermo Ortiz said that there is no reason to think that a witch-hunt will occur in the Mexican financial world. Only those four detainees were being sought, he said.

A high-level PRI official said that the time of the untouchables has ended while some opposition sectors have rejected the official action.

'Rio Zaza' Crew Arrives Safely in Montevideo

FL1502132789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The 86 crew members of the trawler "Rio Zaza" arrived in port today in Montevideo, Uruguay on board another Cuban vessel, the " Rio Najaza".

The fishing vessel "Rio Zaza sank in the South Atlantic after being struck by a Taiwanese ship during a strong squall.

None of the 86 Cuban crew members were injured and all were rescued by the "Rio Najaza". Although it is not official, the men of the "Rio Zaza" will probably return to Cuba by plane.

Measures To Alleviate Nuevitas Port Emergency

FL1502214589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Report by (Arami Gonzalez)]

[Text] Due to the existence of more than 30,000 tons of merchandise in Nuevitas Port, the leaders of the PCC and government in Camaguey have declared a port emergency and have called on those responsible to unload the merchandise.

The internal economy sector was also called upon to create mechanisms that will allow the merchandise to be accepted at any hour. This will prevent merchandise from sitting on vehicles, thus ensuring a better rotation of the equipment.

Some of the units with the greatest volume of merchandise at Nuevitas Port are the Agriculture Ministry, the Universal [as heard], and the materials industry sector, which should use their own methods of transportation and, in some cases, coordinate with enterprises requesting the cargo.

To alleviate the congestion at Nuevitas Port, an operational command post has been established to coordinate efforts among the units and enterprises. The command post will determine responsibilities.

Domestic Trade Ministers To Receive Award

FL1502161689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1520 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The first meeting of the domestic trade ministers of socialist countries that is being held in Havana until 18 February, continued today with the ministers' visit to working centers and tourist attractions.

The representatives of the 13 countries participating in the meeting will visit the national warehouses of domestic trade in Havana's Habana del Este Municipality.

Tonight, a cultural act is expected to be held at Universal Hall of the FAR building. Later the distinction (Fernando Chemartina) will be awarded to the domestic trade ministers of socialist countries.

Tomorrow, the officials will go to Santa Clara where they will see the advances the nation has made in this sector. They will also visit the monument erected in honor of the Che.

Man Arrested for Operating Cement Block Factory

FL1602020589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Agents of the Eighth Municipal Unit of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] have discovered a clandestine cement block factory in the home of (Iluminada Baluja) on (Nau) Street, No 45111, Reparto Los Cocos, Boyeros Municipality, Havana City Province.

(Iluminada) allowed citizen David Lauriano de la Caridad Silva Ruiz—a neighbor who lived on 186th Avenue, No 41117, Reparto (Flibise), Santiago de las Vegas—to use his patio so that he could conduct his illicit activity. [Video shows cement blocks stacked on patio.]

Silva Ruiz, the mastermind of this business, could not show authorities legal documents authorizing storage of large amounts of construction material or a license or agreement with any organization or state enterprise for these products.

This citizen, because of the high income he received, paid six operators to manufacture the blocks. All the materials and equipment used by Silva Ruiz have been confiscated.

The PNR is continuing its investigations to completely clear up this criminal action.

Havana Man Arrested for Armed Robbery
FL1502134589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR, entitled, "The Fight Against Crime," during "Progreso" newscast]

[Text] Officers of the PNR have arrested citizen Sergio E. Gonzalez Rojas, resident of No 185 4th Street, Guinera Neighborhood, Arroyo Naranjo Municipality, Havana for armed robbery.

The accused took large amounts of cigarette cartons and bags of coffee from the "Mi Batey" shop at Km 27.5 of the Volcan Road, San Antonio de las Vegas, Havana Province.

To carry out this crime, Gonzalez used a Lada automobile that he had stolen from Havana's Bejucal Municipality. The car's owner had reported the theft to the authorities.

Upon being discovered, the criminal tried to escape but was not able to so due to the effectiveness of the PNR agents who took him to the corresponding police station.

The PNR adds that it is taking precautionary measures concerning the detained man, until investigations are over and the accused is placed at the disposal of the tribunal that will judge and sanction him according to the present penal code.

Sugar Production Centers Operating Below Average
FL1602024389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Everything that hinders grinding in the sugar center should be eliminated because the main thing now is to get the greatest amount of sugarcane through the mills. This was stated in a harvest commentary by journalist Menandro Perez.

We are in full harvest and the yield from sugarcane is favorable. Nevertheless, during the last 10 days, which ended on the 10th, the grinding at our sugar mills was not at the height we expected it to be. The (?centers) operated at 88 percent of their capacity, which is less than last month.

There is a group of 46 sugar centers that are operating below the national average. The worst of these 46 centers are the Guatemala, Fernando de Dios, and Frank Pais, all in Holguin; and the Martinez Prieto in Havana.

A lot of time has been lost because there has not been enough cane. This is the case in Villa Clara, which wasted more than 400 hours in its sugar mills, while Pinar del Rio wasted 70 hours and Cienfuegos wasted 154 hours, just to mention a few provinces. The people of Villa Clara hold first place in the recovery of sugarcane from the fields [el recobrado] with a rate of 86.71 percent. The province with the worst indicator in this task is Matanzas. Attention is called to the situation in Matanzas because the people of this province previously have been champions in the recovery of cane.

In the mechanized cutting of cane, the results analyzed during this time period were low. Each machine cut 210 arrobas less than what was expected, except in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Matanzas, which, far from decreasing, increased their cutting rhythm.

In the manual cutting of cane, the soldiers of the Youth Labor Army once again took first place. They were followed by the members of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions.

For the industry as well as the agriculture sectors, it is imperative to close ranks for one purpose: to produce more sugar.

*** Sacharina Production Begins in Pinar del Rio**
32480083

[Editorial Report] The Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES of 20 January 1989 reports on page 12 that the first plant to produce sacharina in Pinar del Rio began operations as part of the Manuel Sanguily sugar mill. The report further stated that the production of sacharina, which is made from fermented bagasse, will make it possible to reduce imports of animal feed. According to Modesto Rodriguez, assistant director of industry for the Sugar Enterprises Union in Pinar del Rio, the plant employs less than 10 workers and uses 9 tons of bagasse a day to produce 3 tons of sacharina.

*** 1988 Reduction in Management Personnel Reported**
32480084

[Editorial Report] According to an article in the Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES of 13 January 1989 on page 12, at a meeting sponsored by the CETSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security] on organization and wages it was reported that in 1988 the employment figures for workers grew while figures for management dropped. The article further stated that the eighth plenum of the Central Committee had reported that the country's labor force grew by 55,000 workers while management lost 17,030 workers. Wage levels remained the same as those of 1987.

Barbados

Richard Haynes Named Opposition Leader
FL1502002789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2200 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 14, CANA—Dr Richard Haynes, a 52-year-old physician, on Tuesday was named leader of the opposition in the Barbados House of

Assembly—a move greeted cooly by at least one government backbencher and the displaced opposition Barbados Labour Party [BLP]. The appointment, communicated to the House Tuesday in a message from governor general, Sir Hugh Springer, was read by the House Speaker Lawson Weekes.

Haynes is leader of the newly formed National Democratic Party [NDP]—a breakaway group from the ruling Democratic Labour Party [DLP]. He displaces leader of the BLP, attorney Henry Forde, whose party has only three representatives in the house, compared to the NDP's four.

"...It is my opinion that Dr Richard Christopher Haynes presently commands the support of most of those members of the House of Assembly who do not support the government.

"His Excellency appoints Dr Richard Haynes as leader of the opposition with effect from Tuesday, February 14, and revokes the appointment of Mr Henry Forde as leader of the opposition, also with effect from February 14, 1989," the speaker read.

Haynes appointment was cooly greeted by government backbencher Erskine Simmons, who indicated that the NDP had disfranchised a party with a greater level of support from the electorate.

Haynes first contribution to the House as opposition leader was to offer the BLP members the use of the opposition facilities in the parliament complex. He was responding to Forde's call for office space for BLP parliamentarians—who he said represent 42 percent of the electorate—so they can confer with their respective groups and meet constituents. Haynes pointed out that Barbados did not have a system of proportional representation and that each member of parliament had the "constitutional duty" to support all the people of Barbados regardless of party affiliation.

"...The National Democratic Party is not here to discomfit anyone," Haynes told the house. "We are here to do parliamentary business," he said, extending use of his office facilities by the leader of the BLP.

Deputy Prime Minister and leader of government business in the House, Philip Greaves, later stated that renovations currently being done to the parliament buildings would make facilities available to the BLP members.

The House, which had been sitting in Committee of Supply, threw out an attempt by government backbencher Dr Simmons to look at the system "which allows the political party which has the major support to be disenfranchised"—a reference to the method by which Haynes became leader of the opposition.

Chairman of committee's, Leroy Brathwaite, ruled that was not the matter being debated.

Haynes and three former DLP colleagues formed the NDP two weeks ago after months of internal wrangling inside the DLP which they charged with reneging on its 1986 election manifesto by raising an unprecedented BDS110 million dollars (one BDS dollar: 50 U.S. cents) in personal and corporate taxes.

The four NDP members outnumber the three BLP parliamentarians, and the governor general appoints the leader with majority support in the opposition benches as head of the opposition.

The BLP owed its origins to a break from the ranks of the 50-year-old BLP in 1955 by the late Prime Minister Errol Barrow and three other sitting members at the time.

Grenada

Opposition Announces First Election Candidate

FL1502003489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 14 Feb 89

[DText] St Georges, Grenada, Feb 14, CANA—The oposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) has declared its first candidate for the island's forthcoming general elections, widely expected by the middle of the year.

Party leader Eric Gairy said that former civil servant Winifred Strachan would be its candidate for the St Andrews South-West seat held by external Affairs Minister Ben Jones. Strachan contested the same seat in the 1984 poll against Jones but was badly beaten.

In recent months her name has been mentioned as a possible labour party candidate for the nearby St Andrews South-East seat but Sir Eric said that Strachan would be challenging Jones again. Strachan is both a vice-president and deputy political leader of the GULP. She retired as a home economics tutor with the government in early 1984 and joined Gairy's party.

The GULP won only one of the 15 seats in the last elections but lost it when the successful candidate, Marcel Peters, defected to another opposition group.

Haiti

Report on 11 Feb Government Forum on Elections

FL1302180089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Saturday, the 3d day of the 9 February forum, there were expositions of general recommendations directly or indirectly connected with the forum. We will listen to a report from Morisson Charles.

[Charles] On Saturday 11 February, the work of the national forum on the matter of an electoral council with a view to holding elections in Haiti, revolved mainly around expositions of a maximum of 10 minutes in length by the different leaders, as they are allowed under Article 3 of the regulations. This article gives them the right to make, if they so desire, a statement with a maximum length of 10 minutes on general matters concerning Haiti that can be directly or indirectly linked to the forum.

Some 19 organizations had signed up to make a statement. Eighteen of them were able to make their statements.

However, we must say that earlier, the day had begun with a little duel. On the one hand was a party leader who was asking that the election of Leopold Berlanger as vice president—held the day before—be annulled. [sentence as heard] They also asked that the written record of official proceedings of the prior day's meeting be annulled; and that the regulations not be recognized, because the day before they had voted on each article separately, but had not voted on all the regulations as a whole. This thesis was put forth by Lysias C. Verret. Serge Beaulieu and Arnold Dumas supported it totally. Vladimir Jeanty and Rene Theodore partially supported it.

On the other hand, certain leaders were against this position. They asked that it be voted on. There was a vote, and the (?ayes) won. However, the other camp boycotted the voting.

The camp that was in favor of applying the regulations said that (?it was not necessary) to (?imitate) the regulations of international organizations.

Going back to the business of the statements, we said that 18 leaders spoke.

Maurepas Auguste advocated unity and spoke out against the (?demon) of division. He is calling for national unity. He said his principal objective is honest, unfettered, elections.

Gilles Hendrick of the Charlemagne Peralte [National Liberation] Front complimented the executive for holding the assembly. He saluted the date of 17 September 1988, which brought President Avril to power. He said that organizations such as the PNDPH [National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti], PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], and UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots] had made a mistake by not attending the assembly. He called for honest, unfettered, elections.

Some leaders were not happy about the fact that certain radio stations had compared the forum to a cock-fighting arena or to Carnival.

Daniel Narcisse asked that the government collaborate with the electoral council that will issue from the forum, in order to avoid another massacre such as that of 29 November.

[Begin Narcisse recording, in French] We were thus saying that the fundamenal recommendation we hope this assembly will retain is that Article 289 of the Constitution, which clearly establishes the manner of selecting the members of the electoral council, through the power granted them to recommend to the executive [corrects himself] through the power granted certain institutions identified in that article to recommend to the executive the members who are to be called upon to be members of that council, we ask—our fundamental recommendation (?is)—that it be fundamentally applied.

However, we say that this time we will not need, which is [word indistinct], a thin, weak, flimsy electoral decree like the one that gave birth to the first council and which in a way explains the collapse of the electoral process of 29 November. We will need a solid decree; and we can find, while working here, in the proposal made by the government, important aspects of the proposal that can be integrated into the final decree project. [end recording]

Several other organizations supported the idea of elections being the only way to unblock Haiti, given the situation it is currently in—among them Serges Gilles', Gregoire Eugene's and Francois Latortue's.

On the other hand, Rene Theodore asked that the overall political framework be taken into consideration—the way Haiti's general situation is going. He said that for the Haitian people, elections meant 29 November. He also said that the country's political crisis was based on the way the government works, the way it is exercising power. For this reason, he proposed a government of national coalition.

[Begin Theodore recording] And it is precisely because the masses know that we have met here in order to talk about an electoral institution and elections that they have a greater tendency to show aversion toward the forum. Today, still, to them, elections mean 29 November when the entire Haitian people went out to vote without needing to be enticed by free soup or alcohol—that is, freely and with dignity. However, on that day, human beings ended up lying in blood on Ruelle Vaillant like slaughtered goats. Labadie, [words indistinct]. Elections mean 17 September and fraud against an entire people that had decided to keep its distance—empty streets— because there had been no act of justice for 29 November, because the government was shirking its duties, in the face of all the injustices committed against the Haitian people both during the 29 years of the Duvalier regime and during the 3 years following the Duvalier governments. Add to all this the poverty that is even worse, plus unemployment, the high cost of living,

the arbitrariness of employers, the administrative repression in the factories and assembly plants, which are firing people for union activity, the peasants who are continuing to be involved in clashes because of the arbitrariness of rural section chiefs and other [word indistinct] who are in cahoots with the government. Therefore, the Haitian people are furious about a system that brings hunger, persecution, and insecurity. [end recording]

Like Theodore, Serge Beaulieu too is asking for a government of national coalition, the only government capable of saving the nation. Beaulieu asks that five sectors that he claims are struggling on the battlefield, the Army, the so-called democratic sector—and that is his term—the Duvalierist sector, the private sector, and the communist sector. [sentence as heard]

[Begin Beaulieu recording, in French] Our presence here, Mr Chairman, is in order to show that the country requires a reconciliation—a reconciliation with itself! That is why the Genuine National Party, a peasants party, made up of peasants, (?who are) a national majority in this country, we have proposed—and we are in the process of proposing it now—that the five sectors currently operating on the national scene be taken into consideration by this assembly. [end recording]

The five sectors are: the Army, the so-called democratic sector—those are the words Beaulieu used—the Duvalierist sector, the private sector, and the communist sector.

For his part, Jean-Claude Lebrun surprised most of the assembly with a speech that castigated all the sectors that have been getting fat at the nation's expense since 1804. He attacked the big landowners, the industrialists, and all bigshots as being most responsible for the situation. However, he said he did not want to overturn the table [allusion to Father Aristide's analogy: certain sectors sitting at a table eating, while the majority of the Haitian people are under the table, starving].

Up until now, there have been many gestures of sympathy made during the 2 days of the forum among the representatives of the different parties and organizations. However, we can also say that some of the behavior seems to indicate that some agreements have been reached among different sectors, among the different representatives, with one supporting another in the stands they take. Also, (?some people are not supported) at all.

The leaders participating in the forum are different, belong to different political parties and organizations. Although some of them see the results required more or less the same way, they do not see how they can agree upon the way to obtain these results.

Some are asking for elections. Others are asking for a coalition government. Others are calling for unity. Others are calling for people to be fired. Still others are calling for people to resign.

However, Saturday morning at the Legislative Palace, all 18 organizations that used their 10 minutes spoke on behalf of the interests of the masses—that is, in their speeches, everything is being settled for the Haitian people, who have been suffering for a long, long time. We are waiting to see.

[Announcer] We must remind listeners that on the 3d day of the forum, last Saturday, a political leader called for a government of national coalition, which he says could be made up of five sectors. Among the sectors he proposed were the Army, the Duvalierists, and the private sector.

Further on National Forum

FL1502152889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Yesterday was the fourth work session of the national forum that began 9 February at the Legislative Palace. There was much arguing. For some 3 hours, the participants addressed the assembly to set forth their positions on a matter of great current interest: Rockefeller Guerre and (Sylvain Jolibois), who have been in prison since last week.

Reverend Richard Vladimir Jeanty, who represents the Haitian Party of God, supported by Mr Maurepas Auguste, proposed that these two leaders be tried and released if found not guilty.

For his part, Mr Serge Beaulieu asked that all political prisoners be released. This proposal was supported by Reverend (Dumas Arnold) of the PNDT [National Party for the Defense of the Workers] and Mr Edouard Tardieu of the PPSCH [Social Christian People's Party of Haiti]. They also made other suggestions, saying that their initiatives (?were in keeping with) justice.

Thus, a commission made up of Daniel Narcisse, Alex Dominique, and Francois Latortue was formed to draft a letter to the examining magistrate.

The discussions took another direction following the speech by Rev (Dumas Arnold) of the PNDT, who challenged the nationality of Daniel Narcisse and Jean-Claude Roy. Mr Jean-Claude Roy presented documents to the assembly proving that he is a Haitian national. In connection with this matter, which is very important, Daniel Narcisse too showed his Haitian passport.

For his part, Rene Theodore, the representative of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, attacked the vice president of the definitive bureau, Mr Leopold Berlanger Jr. (?Berlanger) also addressed the assembly. Theodore

and Berlanger are to appear at the Legislative Palace today with documents proving that they are really Haitian citizens. Mr Jean-Claude Lebrun requested this.

Lebrun deplored the conflict within the assembly's bureau, where he claims there is an East-West conflict going on. Mr Lebrun said that the forum was not called to discuss an East-West conflict. Haiti is a small country and this East-West business is for big countries to worry about. Lebrun said: We are here to discuss very important matters concerning elections that must be held normally in Haiti.

At the end of the session, two committees were formed. The first—made up of lawyer Gregoire Eugene, lawyer Francois Latortue, Edouard Tardieu, Jean-Claude Roy, and Daniel Narcisse—is to work on matters connected with elections. The second committee—made up of Dejean Belizaire, Jean-Claude Lebrun, Rene Theodore, and Serge Beaulieu—is to prepare general recommendations to submit to the executive branch on 17 February.

Dr Gilles Hendrick declined the honor of being a member of the second committee.

That, then, was the situation at the Legislative Palace yesterday morning. Discussions are continuing today. Our team of reporters will keep us informed, live, from the Legislative Palace.

Government Delegation Visits Dominican Republic
FL1502150689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] An interministerial delegation went to the Dominican Republic in connection with the accident that occurred last 27 January in which many of our Haitian compatriots died and many others were hurt. We have the Haitian Government report on this matter.

During this mission, the delegation contacted Dominican authorities and several other sectors concerned to inform them of the Haitian Government's position on the accident. They also questioned all those hurt and hospitalized at (Dario Contreras) Hospital in Santo Domingo and at the Maternity and Infant Care Hospital in (Rio Jaina), as well as a number of witnesses to the accident.

They also visited several areas where (?accidents have occurred) and the cemetery in the community of (Pedro Bran), where the victims were buried.

Also, the Haitian Foreign Ministry stressed that the Dominican civil defense submitted to the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo a document showing the (Pedro Bran) cemetery and giving the location of the graves of our compatriots—where they had been buried. Each corpse had been identified by a tag with fingerprints and a number.

We have also learned that 26 of the Haitian citizens hurt in the accident arrived in Port-au-Prince on Friday, 10 February 1989, at around 1800 in a bus given to them by the Haitian mission in the Dominican Republic.

The report says that the embassy gave each of these fellow Haitians some $100 to cover their travel expenses.

Also, we remind you that these Haitians were met at the Haitian-Dominican border upon arrival by the interministerial delegation and a Haitian Red Cross team.

The Haitian Government reiterates its firm determination to continue the initiatives already undertaken with a view to indemnifying the relatives of the compatriots who were killed and hurt. Proper measures have already been taken to prevent the clandestine recruiting of Haitians to cut cane in the Dominican Republic. Also, the government is going to take many measures against any person or group of persons organizing secret trips to permit Haitians to cut cane illegally in the Dominican Republic.

That was a note from the Ministry of Information and Communication, and it was a notice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here in Haiti.

Drivers Threaten 'Long' Strike Over Bridge
FL1402151789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Not long ago, the drivers union from the Matheux area went on strike for a day to protest against the fact that to this day the authorities from the Public Works, Transportation, and Communications Ministry [TPTC] have not made any effort to repair the Bretelle bridge, which collapsed on 6 August 1988. Because of the many problems that arose due to the collapse of this bridge, the drivers in the area have again risen up against the situation. They are not at all happy with the attitude and behavior of the TPTC authorities.

The people in the area say that the rainy season is coming, and that the many streams in the area are going to flood and vehicles coming from northern Haiti, the central plateau, Gonaives, and the Artibonite are going to have great difficulty reaching the capital.

Thus the drivers in the area ask the TPTC to make an effort to give them the bridge as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

This is beginning to make people in the area very angry. There was a strike by the drivers of Cabaret not long ago. It looks as if the drivers of this same area are planning to strike again, and soon. There might be a strike again, and if there is, this time it will be a long one, they told us. [passage omitted]

Peasants Ask for Land; Take Marketing Initiative

FL1402153989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A good number of peasants in the second communal section of Anse Rouge are asking to be allowed to work some 400 carreaux [1 carreau equals 1.29 hectares] of state-owned land that was in the hands of Lucien Thebaud and Claude Raymond under the Duvalier regime. In a letter addressed to the head of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, the peasants say that all this land is lying fallow, whereas they themselves are starving to death in the Anse Rouge area. [passage omitted]

The peasants say that former General Claude Raymond and Lucien Thebaud had chased them off this state-owned land, which they had been working, generation after generation, since independence. In order to survive, they are asking for the government to take back all this land from these bigshots; for the tax office to lease the land to the peasants of the second communal section of Anse Rouge in the Department of the Artibonite; for the Ministry of Agriculture to give them whatever technical support may be necessary; for the Finance Ministry to exempt them from the tax on gas oil so as to permit them to buy gas oil to fuel two pumps so that they can irrigate the area, which is very dry; and for the Ministry of Commerce to find markets in Haiti or overseas for the shallots they produce.

The Haitian Government does nothing in the area. It is French aid that provides a bit of help. Now the peasants in the area have begun getting help from area people who are abroad, but they have no land to farm. That is why they are asking the government for this huge amount of land lying fallow that the bigshots (?took crookedly).

A son of the area who is struggling at the side of the peasants is going to talk to us about the hunger in the Anse Rouge area at present.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] One of the biggest problems, to come back to this business of the shallots, is that there is no technical support. [passage omitted] So when they manage to produce, they produce and the stuff sits there, and spoils because they can't get anything for it. [passage omitted]

At present, here is what we are going to do. We ask the community to listen carefully. We are going to take an initiative on two levels. We have been abandoned to our own devices, so this is what we must do. We are going to put the products into the grocery stores, into all the big grocery stores around here. And we ask the community, when they go to the grocery stores, to look for shallots that come from our area, where the Plaine de l'Arbre begins. That is the first level, for the local grocery stores. We are also studying the possibility of, [rephrases] we are seeking to contact Haitians living abroad to help us find a market for the products. [passage omitted]

The price of shallots is low. It costs them [not further identified] more to produce the shallots than what they can get for them when they sell them. Now, if things develop, as I said, on those two levels—the internal and external markets—they will get a better price and the peasants will be able to accomplish something. [end recording]

Public Health Changes Announced in Artibonite

FL1402152289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination informs the population of the Artibonite area in general and Gonaives in particular that within the framework of the Haitian Government's temporary health plan, construction has just begun, at the initiative of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, of a maternity hospital at the medical-social complex in Raboteau—in order to increase this establishment's functional capacity. The construction of this hospital, which will take some 4 months, is part of the many measures the government is envisioning with a view to filling the need for maternity and infant-care services in the area. Another objective is to significantly reduce problems connected with pregnancies and births in the densely populated neighborhoods of Gonaives.

Also, the Ministry of Public Health and Population is envisioning transforming the Mirebalais health center into a health center with hospital beds, so as to satisfy the request of the area's population. The objective of this initiative is to diversify the institution's activities while raising the quality and increasing the efficiency of the services it already offers in the area.

That was a press release from the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination that we just read for you.

Investigation of School Closings in Miragoane

FL1502153789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpts] In Miragoane and some of its communal sections, according to a small investigation we conducted, schools were operating at some 30 percent on Monday 13 February. We talked to school directors, teachers, and students. [passage omitted]

We point out that if most students stayed home, it was because there was a rumor circulating to the effect that there was going to be a strike on Monday, 13 February. This rumor was widely circulated.

Certain school directors have informed parents that they should not listen to rumors in the streets regarding strikes and thus keep their children home. They said only the news over the radio is credible regarding strikes.

Also, still in connection with instruction, in view of what is happening in a number of schools in certain communal sections of Miragoane—together with what we found during the investigation we conducted—it looks as if a number of school directors and teachers take vile pleasure in using students to settle their personal affairs. Thus, certain schools in the communal sections—such as the national school in (Opak)—have been known to shut down for as long as 3 weeks. However, when this happens, it is always the students who are the losers.

Furthermore, according to a parent who lives in Petite Riviere de Nippes, there was no school in Petite Riviere de Nippes on Monday 13 February because a group was going around sowing panic and fear all over town. Because of this, all the students rushed back home.

We will give further details in connection with this in future newscasts, for the dossier remains open.

Cases of Armed Robbery in Miragoane Area Noted

FL1402152989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Report by Miragoane correspondent Yves Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Saturday, 11 February, at around 0100 in the village of (Lomon) in the second communal section of (Belle Riviere), a team of thieves armed with murderous weapons robbed the homes of two area citizens.

One of the citizens, (Maurice Telange), was hit by eight bullets from an Uzi. He is currently in a Port-au-Prince hospital, and the thieves stole $800 from that house.

The other citizen, (Luc Blode), was bound at the hands and feet by the thieves with a cord and, with a 45-caliber pistol pointed at his ear, was forced to tell the thieves where the money was in his house. The bandits took $17,000 and a white pickup truck belonging to (Luc Blode), (?who) had just come from the Dominican Republic.

There is much wondering going on as to whether these thieves might not have someone in the area telling them where they should strike. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Ministers Sworn In by Prime Minister Manley

FL1502143489 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Six members of Jamaica's new cabinet were sworn in yesterday by Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley.

Among those sworn in are former Foreign Minister P.J. Patterson, who is now deputy prime minister and the minister of productions, development, and planning. The government's new finance minister is (Seymore Molings), who has been his party spokesman on finance since 1981. (David Couer) was finance minister in Manley's government during the 1970's, and he will now be foreign minister.

Prime Minister Manley, speaking at the swearing-in ceremony, said he will not take any ministerial portfolios except that of defense.

Trinidad and Tobago

Senate Votes To Cut Public Service Salaries

FL1502005689 Bridgetown CANA in English 2244 GMT 14 Feb 89

[By Debra Ransome]

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 14, CANA—Arguing that its new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme might be in jeopardy if it did not cut public sector salaries, Trinidad and Tobago managed to woo enough Senate votes on Tuesday to secure a two-thirds majority vote for draft legislation to cut public service salaries. The government secured enough votes for the bill to alter the Republic's Constitution, after appealing to the conscience of independent senators whose vote was crucial to the bill which government claimed was key to its economic programmes.

As the vote was taken, representatives of trade unions noisily left the public gallery. The final vote was 21-9 before the committee stage. Six independent senators joined with the government's 15 senators to clinch the majority. The opposition Peoples National Movement's (PNM) six senators and three independent senators voted against the bill. The PNM did not, however, return for the discussion at committee stage resulting in an ultimate 21-3 vote.

Independent senator, professor John Spence, successfully added an amendment which extends all members of parliament to the ten per cent cut. This amended version of the bill must now return to the government-controlled House of Representatives before it becomes law.

Wilson's [Finance Minister Selby Wilson] main argument focused around the country's new 14-month IMF standby facility approved last month by the Washington-based fund. Wilson argued that the cut in salaries was key to government's economic targets set by the IMF and that failure to live up to these conditions could mean canceling the programme, the suspension of already negotiated debt rescheduling and greater hardship. Wilson said the cut was budgeted to save government TT290 million dollars (one TT dollar:23.5 U.S. cents) this year. [passage omitted]

Following the walkout, the main civil service union, the Public Services Association (PSA) expressed outrage that governnment had argued that it would rather unilaterally deal with local unions than with the IMF.

The bill will not only cut service salaries without consultation with the unions, but will postpone for two years, the payment of an industrial court-awarded pay increase.

"The economic situation is one thing; we can deal with that, but the question of putting in place an undemocratic law is a fundamentally different issue," PSA president Dr Kenrick Rennie told CANA.

The PSA plans a general council meeting later this week to discuss its next step.

*** Pemex Comptroller Said To Block Audits**
32480058 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 634, 26 Dec 88 pp 25-28

[Report by Salvador Corro]

[Text] Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), the country's most important enterprise, is far from maintaining internal order. Its lack of control was brought to light last 5 December when the Pemex internal comptroller, public accountant Juan Manuel Portal Martinez, was accused of negligence, dishonesty, concealment and influence peddling by his immediate subordinate, Francisco Torres Valdes, the head of the Inspection and Responsibilities Unit.

The charge showed that small, medium and big deals, both legal and illegal, can be transacted at Pemex' expense. The seven-figure transaction involving Isidoro Rodriguez' boats, which ended in a conflict between the union and the government, is one example. There are others, such as inchmeal theft, which is increasingly difficult to stop.

This "ant-like looting" takes the form of small-scale fraud, siphoning off funds and administrative irregularities, among others, such as improper payments to suppliers. The amounts can range from 10 to 100 million pesos.

These irregularities have not come to light much. Many are not even uncovered. Pemex has a team of auditors who investigate the few complaints that are filed, write up their reports, draw their conclusions and hand them in to the Internal Comptroller, who blocks or pigeonholes them and alerts or conceals the guilty parties.

Each underdirectorate has a "branch auditor's office," whose staff is appointed directly by the acting underdirector from among the officials who enjoy his trust. Only the branch auditor and the underdirector know whether or not there are deficiencies.

In his complaint Francisco Torres Valdes details eight crimes committed against Pemex in which the internal comptroller was involved in one way or another. He submitted his accusation to the director general of Responsibilities and Patrimonial Situation of the Secretariat of the Office of Comptroller General of the Federation (SCGF) and sent copies to the comptroller general, the president of the republic and the director of Pemex.

Besides his document, he submitted a file of evidence and reports of the audits that were conducted. PROCESO has a copy of the complaint and of the files.

The head of the Unit of Inspection and Responsibilities, Francisco Torres Valdes, "pursuant to Articles 49, 57, 58 and 59 of the Federal Law of Responsibilities of Public Servants," charges:

"Negligence, dishonesty and concealment (on the part of the internal comptroller) for not having reported to this agency (Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic) or requested the intervention of our Judicial Office so that the facts in question could be reported, in connection with the damage caused by Roberto Reyes Diaz, an engineer and the superintendent general of the Petrochemical Complex at San Martin Texmelucan, Puebla in connivance with contractor Fernando Nestor Reyes Estrada."

He explains that an audit was conducted at the complex and that reports 022/87, 023/87, 024/87 and 033/87 were drafted and submitted to the Internal Comptroller's Office because they indicate that Pemex lost 43 million pesos from the revision of public-works contracts C-SMCPI-011/86, C-SMCPI-002/87 and C-SMCPI-003/87 and of services contracts CPI-001/86 and CPI-001/87. The charges were made to the SCGF, the Office of Labor Relations and the Judicial Office.

"Nevertheless, to our great surprise, one of the first actions taken by public accountant Juan Manuel Portal Martinez as internal comptroller was to halt the aforementioned actions and even to ask the Directorate General of Responsibilities and Patrimonial Situation to return to him the file that he had sent them, his argument being that the review had not been done properly."

He adds: "The fact is that he personally told me that he had received instructions from public accountant Raul Robles Segura (commercial underdirector) to halt the matter, and he asked me for the file with all of its originals, which he has to date not returned to me. Afterwards he issued instructions to the Auditing Unit of the Underdirectorate of Industrial Processing and to the auditing manager to write up other audit reports and to justify the previous irregularities so that the superintendent general would have time to correct what could be corrected."

The following irregularities went unpunished: Improper payment for wage adjustments under contract CPI-001/86 in the amount of 4,946,468 pesos; improper payment under contracts C-SMCPI-001/86 and C-SMCPI-003/87 in the amount of 16,033,465.48 pesos; contract duplication to benefit contractor in the amount of 7,759,186 pesos, among others.

Protection of Contractors

The second case detailed in the complaint has to do with the protection that was given to the Compania Voga Ingenieria, S.A. de C.V. "This contracting firm entered into contracts with the STPRM [Trade Union of Petroleum Workers of the Mexican Republic], with Pemex financing and supervision, for the construction of worker housing. However, the Pemex Office of Social Works and Infrastructure asked the union to cancel the contracts because the contracting firm had halted work. The contracting firm, in turn, sought to keep to a

minimum the settlement that had been charged to it for canceling the contracts. "For this reason, the Executive Coordinating Office of Construction decided that the firm had to pay Pemex 74 million pesos (document CE-485 of 9 June 1987). Voga Ingenieria, S.A. de C.V., however, taking advantage of the fact that the owner's wife is the cousin of a personal friend of public accountant Juan Manuel Portal, asked him to intervene in its behalf. Thus, in spite of the evidence against the firm, the internal comptroller asked the enterprise's Risk Management Office to call off the proceedings to recover the loan for Pemex."

This is not all. Both the internal comptroller and the enterprise "have employed the strategy of filing various motions and thus delaying the recovery of the Pemex loan as much as possible." First on 4 May and then on 18 October postponements were granted, and the Comptroller's Office accepted them. "Besides the fact that the internal comptroller is not doing his duty, we feel that damage is being done to the institution's assets as a 74-million peso loan has not been recovered from May of this year to date, a situation that is, of course, attributable to the internal comptroller."

The third case involves the comptroller directly. In July of this year Juan Manuel Portal Martinez, "in the thick of a rationalization and simplification of superfluous costs," decided to attend an international meeting of internal auditors in England. Pemex paid his expenses. "Moreover, though, he cleverly decided to take his 20-day vacation in European countries, so Pemex wound up paying for his airline ticket and a week's miscellaneous spending." This incident contrasts with how tightfisted he is when auditors travel inside the country, as he provides them with small expense accounts.

The fourth case has to do with concealment and negligence in advance payments to contractors (4.55 billion pesos) by the office of the Executive Coordinator of the Pemex Treasury. The Special-Audits Department of the Auditing Office drafted report SA-046/87, dated 28 December 1987, in which it determined that advance payments had been made to contractors in the amount of 6.75 billion pesos from May to August of that year. Pemex has seen considerable damage to its assets as a result. Nevertheless, the internal comptroller and the executive coordinator of the treasury "decided to penalize the advance payment of only 2.2 billion pesos by three minor employees of the Treasury Office. They were suspended for 3 months without pay. Nothing more was learned about the payments of 4.55 billion by the executive coordinator of the treasury and by the finance manager. No action was taken against them because they were senior officials."

The Internal Comptroller's Office does everything to cover up irregularities. For example, in the fifth case there was negligence and concealment for the benefit of supplier E.P.N. Sistemas, S.A. de C.V. According to Auditor's Office Report SAE-026/88 of 17 May of this year, this company, with the complicity of several workers in the Office of Supply and Warehousing, managed to have canceled a penalty of 24,386,245 pesos for the late delivery of order 800-25-4-39198.

The representatives of the company were about to deliver the certified check made out to Petroleos Mexicanos for the amount of the fine when the internal comptroller gave instructions that the matter was to be left pending. And he ordered the new head of the Special-Audits Department (his personal friend) to review the case again and come up with the necessary arguments so that the supplier would not have to pay. The chairman of the board of the company had met with Juan Manuel Portal and had convinced him to halt action on the matter.

The sixth case is similar. The company Pettibone de Mexico, S.A. was fined 218 million pesos for the late delivery of equipment. Nevertheless, it refused to pay up. The Inspection and Responsibilities Unit then requested that the supplier be stricken from the registry, but since "the former procurement manager, who belongs to the group of rulers of the State of Mexico, was involved," the matter was dropped. Not only that but a new auditor's report exonerating the company was drafted.

Ambitious Internal Comptroller

The seventh case is even clearer. "As an official, the internal comptroller is entitled to a chauffeur-driven vehicle. But in the specific case of public accountant Juan Manuel Portal Martinez, there has been complete dishonesty. He is ambitious. Not content with receiving a recently painted and tuned up 1981 Ford Crown Victoria upon his arrival, he immediately requested a new car and was given a Celebrity. But not content with that one either, he then appropriated a Volkswagen Sedan, and what is more, Pemex helped him finance the purchase of a 1988 Ford Thunderbird. That is not all. His chauffeur, instead of devoting himself to the activities that are properly those of his profession, is in charge of 'supervising, monitoring and supporting' the bricklayers on the projects that are under way at the comptroller's home."

Lastly, Francisco Torres Valdes indicates that he came to know the preceding cases "incidentally" and because they were not regarded as vitally important. "Comptroller Juan Manuel Portal Martinez, on arriving in August 1987, gave instructions to public accountant Francisco Nyssen Gonzalez, the auditing manager, that all auditing reports and reports of major diversions no longer be circulated to me because I wanted to send everything to the Secretariat of the Office of the Comptroller General of the Federation. He also gave instructions to his technical aide, public accountant Nicolas Flores Arroyo, that if the zonal auditing offices sent me reports, they were to be passed directly to him and, of course, that the Inspection and Responsibilities Unit no

longer be informed of them. Thus, the auditors often complained to me because the actions that they recommended in the auditing reports were not being carried out like before." He adds that he was told verbally of some irregularities.

For example, there was a complaint from the coordinator of medical audits, Dr Juan Manuel Gonzalez Tapia, who discovered that the Siemens company had been paid 4.5 billion pesos for cardiovascular medical equipment, via Houston, that was really worth, they estimated, only 2.1 billion pesos.

Francisco Torres Valdes quotes verbatim part of a conversation between the physician who conducted the investigation and the internal comptroller. The following are the comptroller's words:

"Doctor (Juan Manuel Gonzalez Tapia), about the review that your auditors are doing of the medical equipment case, give me all of the documentation that has been produced concerning it, because this matter is being handled at very high levels, and the assistant commercial director (public accountant Raul Robles Segura) already knows about it. So forget about the review, and I'm even going to ask the company Societe Souvillance not to give us its opinion, which had previously been requested."

He then mentions two others cases: that of an aviator [one who is on a payroll, even though he does not work at the job and the salary may be collected by a superior or other individual] who is paid at the department head level, and improper authorization for Enrique Heredia Bistrain (a personal friend of the comptroller) to attend the International Track and Field Marathon in New York.

He concludes with these two paragraphs: "It is not fair for our noble organization (Pemex) to have an internal comptroller who does not fully discharge his duties but who, on the contrary, schemes with interest groups and individuals to the detriment of the organization that pays us to serve it."

"It is true that the internal comptroller of Pemex must not allow his actions to destabilize the institution politically, but in the case that concerns us, the truth is that this gentleman came only to protect interest groups."

The pilferage and inchmeal looting take different forms. Almost no underdirectorate is exempt. It is more common in some than in others, depending on the funds that they handle.

There have been cases of offices from which funds went out to support the candidacies of PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] federal deputies. For example, Maria Ines Solis, a candidate in a district in the state of Guerrero, is the wife of the supply and warehousing manager, Mario Rozenstein Szraiber from Argentina.

He came to Pemex on 2 December 1987. He immediately hired his assistant manager of procurement, Jose Luis Paris, who in turn was in charge of hiring his work team. Violating agreement 1266, which Pemex signed with the union, and clauses 3 and 7 of the Collective Bargaining Contract, they hired at least 14 persons for positions and at levels much higher than correspond to their duties. Moreover, they displaced oil workers with seniority. For example, Angel Francisco Pinera Hernandez was hired as superintendent of administration. He was in charge of coordinating Maria Ines Solis' campaign for deputy. PROCESO has proof of the appointments, of the phone calls and of the personal expenses of at least Jose Luis Paris that were charged to Pemex and that were part of the PRI deputy's campaign.

It is not known whether the branch auditor's office is aware of these irregularities. If it is, the most that could happen is that the underdirector of the branch would find out. Nothing more.

Businessmen Arrested for Administration Fraud

FL1502233689 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2118 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Eduardo Legorreta Chauvet, Jaime Ceballos, Juan Carlos Fernandez, and Jose Francisco Rodriguez were today presented to Miguel Olea Rodriguez, judge of the Third District Criminal Court. The Attorney General's Office has accused them of administrative fraud.

The judge is currently studying the case against these people and after 1600 (2200 GMT), he will announce whether or not he will take a preliminary statement from them today or tomorrow, Thursday.

In the meantime, Lic Jesus Huerta Romo Elias, first secretary of the court, said the detention of Legorreta Chauvet and three other stock exchange officials is in no way related to the 1987 stock market crash [preceding word in English]. He added that the charges against them pertain to the purchase of treasury certificates [cetes] which was not reported to the Bank of Mexico and other appropriate authorities in order to pay less taxes.

During the next few hours, the Federal Public Ministry is expected to issue an arrest order for nine other people implicated in this matter. Their names were not revealed in order not to provide them the opportunity to evade justice.

The four men arrested today are accused of fraud in excess of 4 billion pesos through the commercialization of 340 treasury certificates.

Judge Olea Rodriguez said that even if the accused pay for damages, the legal process against them will continue and none of them will be released on bail.

El Salvador

Duarte on Presidential Summit, FMLN Proposal

PA1602051489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0313 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte tonight said that the conclusions reached at the Central American presidential summit, which ended in El Salvador on 14 February, reveal the presidents' willingness to bring peace to the region.

Duarte said that the five presidents' willingness to seek peace was evident at the San Salvador summit. Duarte emphasized Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's commitment to democratize Nicaragua.

[Begin Duarte recording] In the document, you will see that we are bound by honor to a commitment that each of us has made. President Ortega, however, has made a commitment to the world and to his own people to take the necessary steps to provide a political opening for democracy in Nicaragua. This is a great step forward. This necessary process is part of Esquipulas II and the Alajuela document. This is also a process that each of the five Central American presidents desires, seeks, and supports so that peace can be achieved in every Central American country. [end recording]

Duarte added that a new appeal was made at the summit for the rebels to join the democratic process. Regarding a future meeting between the political parties and the FMLN to clear up doubts on the guerrillas' proposal to postpone the elections, Duarte said that this proposal could be positive provided it is legal.

[Begin Duarte recording] It is very important to start with a willingness to seek solutions and peace, which every sector in the country should enjoy. The government is aware of this hope for peace. We have struggled toward achieving peace for 5 years. The fruit of this struggle is being harvested now that we have a democratic process in which the Salvadoran people exercise the right to express their will and to listen to proposals on this democratic process. I think this is a learning process. This is a great step forward. All national sectors are aware of the need to back this democratic step. This is what the government will do if the search for peace is genuine and constitutional. [end recording]

UNTS Building Bombed; 1 Person Injured

PA1502154589 Paris AFP in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Feb (AFP)— A person was injured here at dawn today when unidentified individuals hurled a powerful bomb at the building of the opposition's National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS). UNTS has blamed the government and the Army for the attack.

In condemning the attack, UNTS leader Jose Mazariego said that "this is President Jose Napoleon Duarte's action following the declaration of Costa del Sol;" Marzariego was referring to a peace document signed yesterday by the five Central American heads of state.

The explosion, which was the fourth attack against UNTS, occurred at 0300 (0900 GMT) in downtown San Salvador, seriously damaging the union's building and affecting at least five nearby residences.

At the time of the attack, 18 people, including 11 children, were sleeping inside the UNTS building. One of them was injured and taken to a health center.

UNTS Blames Government

PA1502212389 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Report by Javier Fajardo]

[Text] The UNTS condemned this morning's attack on its headquarters and is holding the government and the Armed Forces responsible. A powerful bomb at the main entrance of the UNTS headquarters exploded early this morning, completely destroying the building and damaging neighboring buildings on 17 Street West, between Spain Avenue and Second Avenue North.

Francisco Martinez, member of the UNTS board of directors, said that pamphlets left on the scene claimed that the so-called General Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade was responsible for the bombing.

[Begin recording] [Martinez] Even though the Gen Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade is being linked to this repressive action, we hold the Armed Forces General Command and President Duarte responsible.

[Fajardo] Did the organization leave any pamphlets behind?

[Martinez] Yes, pamphlets blaming the Gen Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Anticommunist Brigade urban commandos were left on the scene. We regard this as a subterfuge to deflect blame. We hold the Armed Forces General Command and Duarte responsible for this.

[Fajardo] Were there any casualties?

[Martinez] Fortunately not, except for the trauma suffered by our comrades and neighbors. Some neighbors were wounded, but we still have no official report on this. [end recording]

This is the fourth attack on the union's headquarters. The first one took place in August 1987, the second in April 1988, the third on 8 February 1989, and the fourth early this morning.

Early this morning, UNTS members and several homeowners were picking up debris and broken glass left by the explosion. Democratic Convergence presidential candidate Guillermo Manuel Ungo arrived at the scene and said that he also held the Armed Forces and the Salvadoran Government responsible for the attack.

[Begin Ungo recording] I believe that the authorities and the government are responsible for this attack. This low act occurs just after the conclusion of the presidential summit, where President Duarte showed demagoguery and spoke a lot of lies. [Words indistinct] and pledged to fulfill the Esquipulas II agreements in El Salvador that relate to politics and human rights at a time when it is obvious that repression has increased. We deplore this action and know that for the hundredth time they will say that they will investigate and punish the culprits—but nothing will be done. We know that this is part of a master plan to divide the people's organizations. [end recording]

FMLN: Vides' Remarks 'Declaration of War'

PA1502165689 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 13 February, while the Central American presidents began their summit, assassin [Salvadoran Defense Minister] General Eugenio Vides Casanova appeared before the local and international media to reiterate the Army's refusal to negotiate (?the postponement of the elections) with the FMLN.

This knuckle-dragger also stressed that he will not let Duarte remain in power longer than Duarte is allowed to. These remarks by the puppet Vides Casanova once again show who holds power in our country.

It is clear to the international community that, according to this desk-bound general, it is the Armed Forces that [words indistinct], while Duarte continues to be a puppet who is politically finished.

Vides Casanova added that postponing the elections violates the Constitution and that the High Command will enforce the Constitution when it has to.

Such remarks by this knuckle-dragger cannot be interpreted any other way: It is a declaration of war against the people, who are demanding that the government and the High Command accept the FMLN proposal to make the elections a contribution to peace.

Vides Casanova's declaration of war against the people also shows that there is an increasingly deep division within the Army. Soldiers, recruits, patrolmen, Civil Defense members, and lower-ranking patriotic officers—who have this final opportunity to join the FMLN's revolutionary army or be swept away by the people's insurrection—have much to think about.

Parties, FMLN To Meet 20 Feb; Site Unknown

PA1502205489 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Here we have a last minute report on the meeting of political parties to discuss the FMLN proposal:

After 3 hours of discussion at the Popular Union's office, the parties reached five important agreements regarding the FMLN proposal.

First, the political parties agreed to meet with the FMLN in the next few days. A second agreement was that the meeting between the FMLN and the political parties will be held outside El Salvador. A third agreement reached by the parties, which have been meeting from 1050 until now, is that the FMLN will determine in which country the meeting will be held. It could be Costa Rica, Guatemala, or Mexico [word indistinct]. The FMLN will determine where the meeting with the parties will be held to further analyze the proposal that the FMLN presented to the Salvadoran Government.

A fourth agreement reached by the parties was that the meeting must be held on Monday, 20 February. A fifth and final agreement was reached to draft a communique on the meeting. Those who will be in charge of drafting the document will be representatives of three parties within the Popular Union: The Salvadoran Institutional Party, PAISA; the Liberation Party, PL; and the Salvadoran Popular Party, PPS. The delegation will also include the National Democratic Union, UDN, and the Authentic Christian Movement, MAC.

Radio Reports Army Attack on FMLN Hospital

PA1602030289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Attention: The FMLN informs the national and foreign press, the Central American presidents meeting in El Salvador, humanitarian and human rights organizations, and the Salvadoran people:

1. On 13 February, while the Central American presidents were verifying the Esquipulas II agreements at a meeting in El Salvador and after the FMLN General Command had decreed a unilateral truce as proof of its desire to seek peace in El Salvador, Atlacatl Battalion troops perpetrated a criminal action that violated the Geneva human rights accord. The Atlacatl Battalion attacked an FMLN hospital in Chupadero, Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department,

raping and murdering patients and medical and paramedic personnel. All of this took place at 1300 when the Atlacatl Battalion's 1st Command Company attacked the war hospital with grenades, machineguns, and artillery. This criminal battalion murdered three disabled patients who were unarmed and had no way of defending themselves.

2. The victims' names are: Leonel Cartagena, 22; Pino Lara, 28; and Ernesto. Meanwhile, comrade nurses Elba Tunon, age 14, Mirna Carrillo Ramirez, age 21, and Mexican Doctor Alejandra Bravo Betancur Menseas, age 35, were captured, raped, and murdered. Their remains were found near the hospital where, after raping them, the soldiers left their nude bodies.

3. This new criminal incident also violates the 1987 agreement concerning those wounded in war as well as prisoners of war, signed at a meeting between the FMLN and the government in Mexico. This incident provides new proof that the Duarte government and high command lack political resolve. The government has continued the Atlacatl Battalion's military operations in central Chalatenango, ordering criminal actions such as these while the Central American presidents were meeting in El Salvador to ensure the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements.

4. We call on all humanitarian and human rights organizations to condemn this new criminal action perpetrated by the Duartist Army against patients and medical personnel at a hospital. We urge the national and foreign press to report this incident, and once again we have proven to our people that the puppet army and government are criminal organizations that reject peace.

FMLN Attacks San Salvador Police Headquarters

PA1602045789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0326 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Text] Military sources report that FMLN urban commandos tonight hurled an explosive device at the National Police Central Headquarters. According to Coprefa, the device was hurled at approximately 1930 from a distance of 800 meters, but it did not reach its target.

The device hit the Chepita Restaurant on the south side of the police headquarters, injuring three people. After the attack, the police searched the area and found a LAW grenade launcher near La Vega church.

At the same time, an attack was carried out with explosive devices on the National Police headquarters in the Sacamil area, but no casualties were reported.

Honduras

Regalado Rebukes CIA Chief Webster's Statement

PA1502165189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1555 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado today urged CIA Director William Webster to present proof of an alleged plot to stage a coup in his Central American country.

Meanwhile, business, labor, and political groups condemned any attempt to disrupt Honduras' constitutional order. They reiterated their support for the government and pressed for a congressional investigation on the matter.

In remarks to the media last week, Webster said there is great political instability in Latin America, and that in several countries—Honduras included—there are plots against their governments.

"I dare Webster to present the proof to see who is planning to stage a coup in Honduras. If anyone under my command has that intention, I must take the appropriate action," Regalado told the press.

The military chief recalled the Honduran Armed Forces were created "to defend the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internal order, not to govern."

Regalado deplored that a "foreigner," the CIA director, should cast doubts on the Honduran Armed Forces' often repeated statement: They "do not have any intention of staging a coup against the legal government."

Moreover, the Honduran Congress yesterday established a commission comprising four political parties to investigate the CIA chief's charges.

According to a legislative resolution, the commission will investigate any conspiracy that may undermine the foundations of the democratic system that has existed in the country since 1980, following 16 years of military rule, and will present the conclusions within 29 days. Regalado termed the establishment of that commission as "positive" but added the deputies must conduct a "serious and detailed investigation to dispel existing doubts regarding the Armed Forces' actions."

The military chief said he is fully convinced the deputies' investigation will restore, in the end, the Honduran Armed Forces' credibility.

Labor, business, and political groups of different trends condemned "any coup attempt" and voiced their solidarity and total support for the country's democratic system of government.

Marco Tulio Cruz, secretary general of the Social Christian General Workers' Federation, today urged all of the country's sectors to rally around democracy and unanimously reject any coup attempt.

Nicaragua

Venezuelan Daily Interviews Ortega on Economy

PA1502154189 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p A-10

[Report on interview with President Daniel Ortega by Omar Luis Colmenares in Caracas; date not given]

[Excerpts] A mixed economy is the basis of the Sandinist plan, which Nicaragua has maintained despite the huge difficulties caused by the war of attrition and an economic blockade. According to a newly proposed austerity plan, the mixed economy system will be expanded, which means, as President Daniel Ortega admitted in an interview with EL NACIONAL, it will undergo a trial by fire.

The mixed economy system, Ortega said, is being tested in Nicaragua because we are going to expand it, as established by the Constitution. Therefore, it will be a challenge for the private sector, which will be responsible for increasing productivity and reincorporating our economy back into the international markets. [passage omitted]

As long as there is war, the Nicaraguan president explained, people will be sent to fight in combat areas and the economic difficulties become secondary, because people's lives are at stake. Efforts cannot be concentrated on the economic problem. We were compelled to provide a subsidy, especially to assist the entire population, private producers, and producers in the social sector. This grew into a crisis that became unbearable.

President Ortega said that at that point, he had the choices of implementing a war economy or calling for concerted economic efforts, whether or not the war was over.

Ortega said: "We proposed a concerted effort as part of the measures seeking to mitigate the serious economic situation and as part of a plan whose priority is to give new strength to the private sector. With this plan, the businessmen's conscience is being tested. Will businessmen be able to respond with a national feeling to the appeal we are making, in a situation in which workers have made the most sacrifices? Businessmen have to be convinced they must make some sacrifices. Otherwise, workers will protest because many of them have already lost confidence in businessmen who have decapitalized companies that in turn have decapitalized the productive centers."

[Colmenares] President, has your government estimated the political costs that these measures imply?

[Ortega] Measures generating unemployment will always have political costs. However, we have given people the alternative of getting jobs in the countryside—at the coffee farms, for example. It will be difficult for some who are used to life in the city, but many people are willing to join agricultural work. [passage omitted]

President Ortega gave a lot of importance to strengthening democracy, and closely linked this to respect for human rights, which is a critical point during debates.

Ortega mentioned that he briefed Honduran President Azcona Hoyo on the efforts Nicaragua is making to strengthen its mixed economy and guarantee political pluralism, which are part of the efforts to consolidate the democratic system it is building. Ortega maintained elections will be held, as established by the Constitution, not later than November 1990.

Daniel Ortega thoroughly explained this concept. He said it is necessary to understand that a democracy is being built in Nicaragua for the first time; between 1821 (when Nicaragua obtained its independence from Spain) and 1979, Nicaragua never had a democracy. Here, Ortega made one remember Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes, when he refutes the argument that the contras' struggle is to reinstate democracy in Nicaragua. "How are they going to reinstate what never existed before? Prerevolution Nicaragua had no institutions, schools, hospitals, or infrastructures on which a democratic regime could be established."

Ortega also linked the concept of defense with human rights. He said human rights are the soul of democracy. He noted Nicaraguan doors are open to all international organizations wishing to make an on-site verification of human rights. [passage omitted]

The Nicaraguan president stressed the importance of the participation of democratic Latin American countries, the Group of Eight, in the region's peace efforts. However, he admitted it is necessary to promote economic integration. He mentioned this was discussed in Caracas although Nicaragua did not request specific aid.

The important point is to give new strength to organizations such as SELA and understand that economic exchange is fundamental to overcome the economic crisis our nations are enduring. This will allow us to establish a fairer relationship with the United States.

Daniel Ortega viewed the participation in this Caracas meeting of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle as positive. "We did not meet with him, but he met with Latin American political leaders who clearly expressed Latin American problems. This makes us very optimistic," Ortega said.

Ortega Discusses Elections, Media Opening

PA1502130589 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1210 GMT 15 Feb 89

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified international reporters in El Salvador on 14 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] will begin in mid-1991?

[Ortega] The Nicaraguan people are the ones who hold power. They changed Nicaraguan history in 1984. By holding general elections on 25 February 1990, the Nicaraguan people will again vote, express their will, decide, and exercise power. They will determine who will lead the Nicaraguan Government from then on. That is what will happen in 1990.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, what can you tell us about the formation of the verification commission. [Words indistinct] that it should be an international commission. What is the final decision on that?

[Ortega] We reached agreements, which are clearly explained in the final document. We must now make specific steps to make progress in the implementation of our agreements. The main thing is we must have political will. In the final document, the five Central American presidents have expressed their desire to have that will.

[Reporter] President Ortega, I would like to ask you about the mechanisms you will use to revise the law that regulates the media in Nicaragua. Does that revision include the reopening of the television [words indistinct] and the media that are presently closed?

[Ortega] We have already made steps; we have already made steps through which we have told the various radio stations they can resume the newscasts that had been closed. That decision was made after my meeting with various Nicaraguan political party leaders. As for the other points that deal with the [word indistinct] media including television, they will be discussed to provide confidence and security to all Nicaraguans.

FSLN, Ortega Salute Iranian Revolution

PA1502145289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 9

[Letter from President Daniel Ortega to Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the 10th anniversary of the Iranian Islamic Revolution—issued in Managua on 8 February]

[Text] Managua, 8 February 1989
Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Dear President and friend:

On behalf of the FSLN's National Directorate, the Nicaraguan Government and people, and myself, I extend to you our sincerest congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Iranian Islamic Revolution's victory.

The commemoration of such a significant date for Iran's revolutionaries brings joy to the Nicaraguan Government and people, who, like the people of Iran, have faced and emerged victorious from the difficult struggles to which the enemies of peace, liberty, and social justice have subjected us over the past 10 years.

I take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate our solidarity and support for the praiseworthy efforts your government is making for peace and international detente, which will unite the Third World countries and promote their development.

Renewing my best wishes for the continued development of this friendly and cooperative relationship between two revolutions, I reiterate, once more, my fraternal greeting.
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

PSC Leader on Ortega's 'Promises' at Summit

PA1502191989 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Interview with Chester Guevara Silva, vice president of the Social Christian Party (PSC), by unidentified reporter on 14 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Guevara] The PSC believes the five points proposed by Daniel Ortega in El Salvador are not enough, because they are already included in the Esquipulas agreements and his government has not complied with them. We can see he has talked about an economic agreement; however, a political agreement is necessary for an economic agreement to be successful. A political agreement creates a climate of trust so private enterprise can invest its money and workers can trust the national economy because their real wages will not decrease as a result of the drop in the cordoba's purchasing power.

A partial amnesty cannot bring a climate of peace to Nicaragua either, because there is distress among Nicaraguans who have their relatives in prison.

As for the resumption of the national dialogue, it was the ruling party that suspended it, thereby leaving the opposition only with the hope of waiting for the continuation of the national dialogue.

Moving up the date of the elections is unconstitutional, because the Constitution does not provide for any change in the date of the elections. To do this, three conditions should exist. First, a complete reform of the Constitution should be made by means of a constituent assembly—probably it would be what most Nicaraguans would want because 17 additional constitutional reforms are being demanded that are aimed at creating a climate

of peace necessary in Nicaragua. Another way to reform the Constitution is by means of a referendum, in which the people themselves decide whether some articles of the Constitution are changed or not. Other changes may be made by means of negotiations through a national dialogue in which an agreement is reached between the political parties and the government.

Approving a change in the election date would be slightly difficult because it would have to be made in two periods, which would take 2 years. The government should have provided the facilities for the operation of the national reconciliation commission. It was the government itself that suspended its support of this commission headed by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the spiritual leader of all Nicaraguans. The national reconciliation commission was harshly criticized by the progovernment newspapers even though it is the responsibility of the Nicaraguan Government to support it.

[Reporter] Would the PSC, of which you are the vice president, be willing to attend this national dialogue to prepare for the upcoming elections?

[Guevara] The PSC has always been willing to participate in a sincere national dialogue leading to peace in Nicaragua. There should be fair play, otherwise the PSC would not be willing to participate in the national dialogue. If elections are held in Nicaragua, the PSC will participate in them, but it will demand necessary conditions first. There should be clean elections; we need to be able to move about freely; we need access to the media; and in general we need the necessary conditions so the PSC and the Nicaraguan civic opposition can participate.

[Reporter] What results do you expect from the Central American presidential summit, which will end today?

[Guevara] The results will have to be positive, because even though the government has not complied with the Esquipulas agreements, at least on this occasion, it is promising to do so. It has not complied with the agreements signed in the past. The FSLN is known for its failure to fulfill agreements. On this occasion, we men of faith must be hopeful President Ortega will be courageous enough to keep his promises made in this Central American presidential summit meeting.

BARRICADA on Illegal Travels to U.S.

PA1502165389

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish, in its 11 February issue on page 4, carries the first part of a report on Nicaraguans being illegally taken to the United States through Central America by unscrupulous guides known as "coyotes."

The report begins by saying Nicaraguan businessmen and street vendors used to travel to Panama, El Salvador, and Guatemala as tourists to purchase merchandise and bring it into Nicaragua without paying taxes. "Later, when the Patriotic Military Service Law was enacted in 1984, young men began to be taken out of the country. They were charged as much as $1,000 each for a counterfeit birth certificate, passport, visa, and for 'closing the deal' in Guatemala. These 'excursions' were encouraged by the economic crisis and the U.S. Embassy's refusal to grant visas."

The report continues to say that in Guatemala, the "coyotes" "promise to help the travelers cross the borders unimpeded, gain entry, and obtain working permits for them in the United States. The truth is that the travelers are finally swindled and outraged."

The report says many victims have testified about these trips, and that their statements are so distressful that persons who suffered the most horrible experiences did not give details of the most trying moments during these trips, and others did not authorize the paper to publish their names or take their photographs. Nevertheless, all the persons interviewed had a strong interest in reporting the swindling and stealing, and in the case of women, rape, according to the report.

The second part of this report appears in BARRICADA's 12 February issue on page 4 and is signed by Bayardo Mendoza and Pablo Cerna. It highlights that the "excursion" promoters have made millions and only contributed the ludicrous amount of 13 million cordobas to the Nicaraguan fiscal system during 1988.

The report states Finance Ministry official Francisco Sarria has reported that last year, 350 "excursion agencies" were accounted for but only 103 paid taxes—and these reported unbelievably low income statements. The official added that both immigration and customs offices have a "flexible policy," because no citizen is denied the right to enter or leave the country. During the last 6 months of 1988, a total of 126,320 citizens traveled to foreign countries (mainly to the United States and Canada) using all available means. Only 50,299 citizens have returned, thus 76,021 have remained outside the country.

The report continues by stating that thousands of Nicaraguans have left the country using the "excursion" system and that the tax department is studying measures to avoid the loss of significant amounts in taxes without changing the "flexible policy."

The report quoted Daniel Castro, president of the National Travel and Tourism Agencies Association [Asociacion de Agencias Nacionales de Viajes y Tourismo—ANAVYT], who stated: "The existence of such a large number of 'pirate agencies' is incredible; they pick up a lot of dollars and do not account for them to the bank, tax department, or anybody." He added that the "excursion" agencies obtain for clients their consular visas and departure permits, which are procedures that must be made personally by the traveler. The agencies also purchase the airline ticket and resell it at double the price, "exploiting the ignorant and needy passenger.

They also retain the return portion of the ticket." The massive trafficking of persons by illegal means is also worrisome because it enables gold, jewelry, and Nicaraguan patrimonial articles to be smuggled out of the country. Furthermore, youth of military age and even common criminals who are evading the law can leave the country with the falsified documents that can be obtained by swindlers that operate these agencies.

The report continues by stating that the Honduran, Guatemalan, and Mexican immigration officials also benefit from the business of taking Nicaraguans to the United States, because the "bribes" made to these officials double or triple the cost of the trip. It notes that a trip costs $1,200 from Managua to Texas and $1,500 to Miami. The report ends by stating that apparently there is very little control of excursions despite the fact that there is a large amount of traffic and that there are many illegal procedures being used.

1,000 Contras Conclude Training in Honduras

PA1502131289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0338 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Feb (DPA)—One thousand Nicaraguan contras graduated from guerrilla warfare and political training courses on 11 February. The training took place at the Military Training Center in Yamales, El Paraiso Department, in eastern Honduras along the Nicaraguan border. The ceremony—which was held at the center, the contras' version of a military academy—was presided over by Colonel Enrique Bermudez, commander of the Nicaraguan Resistance Army (ERN), and by the ERN General Staff.

This was disclosed today in Tegucigalpa by contra spokesmen, who said 645 of the 1,000 rebel graduates are unit and company commanders.

According to the ERN spokesmen, Bermudez told his troops that "the ERN fighters will not be disarmed to satisfy Ortega's request, because the resolve to struggle will exist as long as there is no democracy in Nicaragua." The contras' military leader also said at the ceremony that "difficult times lie ahead" for the rebels, but "I urge them not to go back a single step."

Wenceslao Aviles Front Vows To Continue Struggle

PA1502202089 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 p 31

[Text] The Nicaraguan rebels who make up the Wenceslao Aviles Central Front issued a communique yesterday stating that they are determined to continue their struggle for democracy in their country even without foreign aid.

The communique issued by the organization headed by Commanders "Leonel," "Franklin," "Mario," "Chocoyo," and "Gavilan" adds that they have been fighting in the central areas of Nicaragua for the past 8 years.

"The selfish attitude of certain leaders who are attempting to decide the outcome of our struggle worries us," the communique adds.

Likewise, the Wenceslao Aviles Central Front says it seems they have been condemned to extinction. The communique added that "meanwhile, the United States has expressed its willingness to give the shameful Ortega regime a second chance without taking into consideration the fact that our dead were never given a second chance."

The Nicaraguan rebels said they are struggling in the central areas of Nicaragua because of their own beliefs and patriotism and not thanks to the United States or any other nation. "Proof of this is that, with very little aid—not to say none—we have been waging our struggle for a long time."

The communique also said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' repeated charges that the front is being supplied by the United States are not true. "Quite the contrary; Arias has not even allowed humanitarian aid for us to come in through his country. As a result of this, we have no medicine, and many of our fighters and civilians have died," the guerrillas said in their communique.

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan rebels said that barefoot, naked, hungry, and poorly armed, they will continue to fight as they have done until now, because "our love for the homeland is bigger and stronger than the cowardly actions of those who are in a position to give us a hand but refuse to, instead letting us die in an uneven battle."

Security Reports Detain 8-Person Rebel Cell

PA1502142689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 11 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] State Security members have seized 150 pounds of C-4 explosives and military materiel, which were going to be used to destroy economic targets, from a counterrevolutionary cell that had been operating in Region Five under orders of two members of a faction of the Social Christian Party [PSC] headed by Agustin Jarquin.

Camoapa farmer Juan Jose Rodriguez Lopez, 44-year-old secretary and president of the PSC and so-called Democratic Coordinating Board in this municipality, had been heading a group of eight since mid-1988. Subcommander Oscar Loza, State Security operations chief, presented four members of this group to the national and foreign press yesterday.

The other three counterrevolutionaries—29-year-old Jose Enrique Fernandez Mendez, 45-year-old Rafael Aviles Fernandez, and 39-year-old Juana Maria Blandon Diaz—contradicted each other so much that their involvement with the decimated mercenary forces became evident.

Jose Corea Castillo, Odrid Aleman, Gracian Sandigo, and Erasmo Soza Diaz were the other four members of the cell, which was reportedly planning to attack the Mauricio Duarte Company and other economic targets in Region Five.

Subcommander Loza said the eight counterrevolutionaries will be at the disposal of tribunals in Region Five where they are from.

Jose Rodriguez Lopez calmly said he had been under arrest for 10 months in 1987 for counterrevolutionary activities.

Rodriguez added that in late June 1988, he was recruited by a counterrevolutionary nicknamed "Zona Franca," who told him he would pay with his life should he refuse to do the "job."

In October, Enrique Fernandez arrived at Rodriguez' Camoapa home with the pretext of selling cattle to his sister, but his real mission was to hand Juan Jose Rodriguez a package with explosives.

Rodriguez said this package was for counterrevolutionaries Odrid Aleman and Guillermo Soza, who were tasked with carrying out the job that "Zona Franca" had told him about.

"In December, I became afraid and decided to go to Managua," he pointed out, adding that he lodged at the PSC headquarters, hotels, and the homes of friends whom he refused to name.

This contra was captured by State Security on 16 January in the capital, where he was making contacts.

Juan Jose Rodriguez admitted that several PSC members, including Chester Guevara, knew about his counterrevolutionary activities.

Juana Maria Blandon Diaz, a 39-year-old teacher and PSC member (Jarquin's faction), agreed to work for the contras—according to her, out of fear they might hurt her family. Rafael Aviles Fernandez, 45 years old, openly said farmer Juan Jose Rodriguez got him involved in the counterrevolution. During his capture, State Security found an M-79 grenade launcher and several grenades under his bed.

He admitted to having participated in three meetings with the mercenary leader nicknamed "Zona Franca," but said he was "repentant."

Jose Enrique Fernandez Mendez repeated the story to reporters that "Zona Franca" pressured him into getting involved. Based on their statements, it became evident that the contras had recommended the same alibi to these four individuals, causing contradictions to surface.

Juana Maria Blandon Diaz revealed that national PSC leaders advised them, before being captured, to go to LA PRENSA and Radio Corporacion to make their arrest look like political repression against PSC activists.

Panama

ADOC's Endara Vows Not To Extradite Noriega

PA1502185689 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Feb 89 p A-1

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In statements to DPA, Guillermo Endara, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] presidential candidate, vowed not to extradite General Manuel Antonio Noriega to the United States if Endara is elected president of Panama in the upcoming 7 May elections.

"As opposed to what has happened in this administration, our government will grant all constitutional rights. One of these constitutional rights is that Panamanians cannot be extradited from their territory. We will faithfully abide by that provision," Endara concluded.

Solis Palma, Noriega Discuss Government Finances

PA1502141789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Significant issues concerning the country's socioeconomic situation and particularly the government's financial situation were discussed at a meeting at the Presidential Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; Banco Nacional manager, Rafael Arosemena; and Colonel Marco Justines Fernandez, chief of the FDP General Staff.

At the meeting, which lasted over 2 hours, Solis Palma raised issues related to the country's economic problems. He made proposals and gave instructions regarding Panama's production and financial situation.

Top-level coordination in several fields was established at this meeting between the Executive Branch and the FDP.

Opposition Candidate Vows Treaty Compliance
PA1602022589 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance second vice presidential candidate, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] I believe one of the most serious problems this country has is the neglectful way in which the studies for a sea-level canal or a fourth set of locks for the present canal have been handled. It is because of this laziness that the Panamanian Government has not wanted to seriously face these alternatives, which is causing speculation about building canals in other countries.

We, who will attain power, guarantee not only the maintenance and security of the canal, but also the total reversion of the canal to Panama. We shall also struggle tirelessly so the canal is kept up to date, thus discouraging the construction of other canals, because the canal is one our country's most important resources.

[Reporter] Would you consider renegotiating the Torrijos-Carter treaties?

[Ford] At no time have we considered renegotiating the treaties. We are not going to allow those treaties to be violated by the United States, and we shall not violate them either. We are going to demand compliance with these treaties, and we, for our part, guarantee our compliance.

PCC Board Member on Possible Nicaraguan Canal
PA1502172689 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 14 Feb 89 p 2

[Text] Dr Carlos Ozores, Panamanian representative at the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, has stated the Nicaraguan Government announcement to begin the construction of a sea-level canal can indirectly be beneficial for our country because it would speed up the canal projects the United States keeps pending.

Ozores added: "I think this information will be of use to the United States, which must begin, as soon as possible, the works to widen Gaillard Cut, an action needed to continue operating the Panama Canal with the efficiency and competitiveness that has characterized it."

He maintained that if this work is not approved, there will be a significant delay in the time a ship takes to transit the canal. It may take longer than the usual 24 hours a ship currently spends in canal waters.

He also referred to a proposal for a third set of locks being studied by a tripartite commission composed of Panama, Japan, and the United States. This third set of locks, together with the widening of the Gaillard Cut, may dissuade any investor from trying to build another canal in a country such as Nicaragua, which presents geographical hazards because of the large number of volcanoes there.

ADOC To Create 'Parallel' Electoral Tribunal
PA1502133489 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p 10

[Text] Followers of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) are studying the possibility of establishing a sort of electoral tribunal parallel to the Electoral Tribunal created by the national authorities with the purpose of "watching over" the development of the forthcoming 7 May elections.

Carlos Harris, former Christian Democratic Party representative to the National Vote-Counting Board, told the media that the opposition "cannot make the same mistake made during the previous elections and must prepare a contingency plan for confronting the electoral fraud."

Harris explained he "is in favor of forming a national front against electoral fraud that would work throughout the nation, in all nine provinces, and the Indian area of San Blas."

He added that the front would be composed of "outstanding Panamanians who would receive all complaints, analyze them, and discuss them according to the Electoral Code."

For progovernment circles, the establishment of this front would be the equivalent to implementing a new phase of the "Philippines plan in Panama."

In 1987, Father Fernando Guardia Jaen, Aurelio Barria, and Magistrate Luis Carlos Chen were invited by a U.S. organization to visit the Philippines and attend a seminar to learn about an institution called "Nanfrel," which had been established during the presidential elections in which the candidates were former President Ferdinand Marcos and Mrs Corazon Aquino.

Biographical Data on PPA Candidate Nicosia
PA1502132789 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p A-2

[Unattributed report: "Biographical Sketch of Hildebrando Nicosia Perez, presidential candidate of the Authentic Panamenist Party for the 1989-94 Term"]

[Text] Hildebrando Nicosia Perez, 64, is the presidential candidate of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA) for the 7 May elections. The rest of the slate is composed of Alfonso Manuel Diaz Tablate, 72, and Emilio Ponce Arze, 58, who are running for the posts of first and second vice president, respectively. They claim to represent "a third electoral force" under the motto of "For independence of the civilian and military leaderships."

Nicosia Perez is married to Ana Balbina Vives. He has two married daughters—Marisol and Mariela Nicosia Vives—and three grandchildren. He has a diploma in business administration from Buffalo University in New York and has taken additional courses on his specialty.

Nicosia has written articles for magazines and newspapers in Panama and the United States.

An indefatigable traveler for political, business, and civic purposes, Nicosia has toured Latin America, the United States, and Europe.

He began his political career 41 years ago. His first political appointment was that of provincial poll watcher. Later, from 1952 to 1959, he became assistant secretary general of the PPA and was named PPA secretary general by the party's conventions in 1960, 1963, 1967, and 1983.

On 11 December 1988, Nicosia rose to the top position in his party when he was elected president of the PPA; on 5 February 1989, he was nominated as the PPA's presidential candidate in the 7 May elections.

Because of his knowledge and loyalty, Nicosia has been given some of the toughest tasks in the PPA. One was to reorganize the party following periods of persecution by civilians and military alike. He took over these functions for the first time when, while at Modelo Jail, Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid instructed him to organize the party. He also did so in 1960, 1963, 1967, and 1983.

In 1964, Nicosia was secretary general of the National Opposition Union [Union Nacional de Oposicion], and in that very same campaign, as in 1968, he was Dr Arnulfo Arias's personal representative to the National Vote-Counting Board.

In the elections of 1968, Dr Arnulfo Arias was proclaimed president, and during his 11-day government, which was overthrown by the military with the support of the national oligarchy, Nicosia Perez held the office of presidential minister and later shared 10 years of exile with the deposed Panamanian president.

During the 1984 elections, Nicosia Perez was confronted with the plans prepared by the party's enemies and their internal allies. He opposed the elimination of party posts assigned to party members through popular elections; for this reason, his life-long enemies sought revenge after the death of party leader Arias Madrid, when they showered him with insults and slanderous statements published in the mass media.

Nicosia has been a member of numerous civic and business organizations, both in Panama and abroad, such as the Lions' Club in Panama; the Kiwanis Club in Buffalo, New York; the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture; and the Association of Panamanian Industrialists. In Buffalo, he was also a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross, and Jaycees International.

While in the Jaycees International, he stood out for having served as secretary general for three consecutive terms and executive vice president at the international level.

As a private business executive, Nicosia has been active, both in Panama and in the United States, in the real estate field, in a corporation known as OCINOC, S.A., in the stock exchange (Wall Street and Coral Gables, Miami), and in Panamanian companies, such as Cia. Lefevre, and his own construction company, Trafalcat International Corporation.

For presidential candidate Hildebrando Nicosia Perez, the challenge is: "To create a grand coalition of consciences without sectarian interests, because Panama cries out for all Panamanians to unite, without partisanship or sectarianism, so together with the aristocracy of the best and most talented men, the battle to move Panama forward may be fought."

PRD Congratulates Jamaican Michael Manley

PA1502133989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 14 Feb 89

["Text" of note sent by Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) President Carlos Duque, Secretary General Darinel Espino, and International Affairs Secretary Nils Castro to Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley and (Horace Bailey); date not given]

[Text] Mr Michael Manley,
(Mr Horace Bailey)

The PRD, founded by Omar Torrijos and member of Socialist International, is pleased to congratulate its good friend Michael Manley and the brothers at the People's National Party for the smashing and well-deserved democratic victory achieved by the Jamaican people. This triumph confirms that the bitter times of neocolonialist hegemony—by the Reagan regime and his followers in our region—are over. This also confirms that new opportunities are available to the Jamaican and other Caribbean, Central American, and Latin American peoples.

For the Panamanian people's long national resistance struggle in defense of their sovereignty, the democratic victory attained by you and the Panamanian [as heard] people is a great cause of happiness. With this, we hope once again to continue advancing with solidarity to attain the self-determination, democratization, and independent developments for which our nations have always struggled.

OAS Mission To Investigate Human Rights

PA1502140289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2237 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A special OAS mission will visit Panama between 27 February and 3 March to investigate the human rights situation in the country.

Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission (CPDH), today told ACAN-EFE that the OAS mission will first meet with opposition leaders, representatives of human rights groups and of the Catholic Church, business leaders, and journalists, particularly those working for media that have been shut down.

According to Velasquez, the OAS mission will later meet with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian regime's "strongman," and with the Panamanian Defense Forces General Staff. The mission will also meet with members of the Supreme Court and of the Attorney General's Office, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, government party leaders, and Legislative Assembly leaders. Likewise, the mission will visit Panamanian jails and will travel to the provinces to talk with humanitarian organizations' leaders, Velasquez added.

The delegation comprises Marco Tulio Bruni-Celli, president of the OAS' Human Rights Commission, and two members of the commission: Jose Valladares and David Padilla, the commission's under secretary.

The commission's visit had been under discussion for several months, but the government had not responded to the OAS group's request to visit Panama, CPDH sources stated. Even though the government did not invite the commission, it decided to allow the commission to visit Panama and hold all the necessary meetings, the same sources added.

The findings of the investigation will be announced during an OAS Human Rights Commission meeting in April, but the publication of the commission's report could be delayed until next year.

The Panamanian opposition will take advantage of the commission's presence to organize a march through Panama City on 2 March to demand respect for human rights and free elections.

Velasquez told ACAN-EFE that two Panamanian opposition leaders who are exiled in the United States and have been chosen as candidates for Legislative Assembly seats will return to Panama with the mission.

Argentina

'Terrorists' Release Communique in Montevideo

PY1502173389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1448 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Feb (TELAM)—In its 15 February issue, the morning newspaper LA REPUBLICA published a so-called "Communique No 2" of the "People's Resistance Front" ["Frente de Resistencia Popular"] (FRP), a name that the same newspaper made popular in its 1 February issue, when it devoted its front page and two additional pages to "Communique No 1" of the Argentine terrorist group, which claimed the attempt to seize the La Tablada infantry regiment near Buenos Aires.

The communique published today mentions some of the topics of the first communique and adds two names to the list of dead terrorists. The two names, Ivan Ruiz and Jose Diaz, are not included in the lists that have thus far been released in Argentina. Consequently, it is believed that if the information is accurate the names could be those of bodies that have not yet been identified.

LA REPUBLICA's largest headline today reads: "We Contacted Three La Tablada Guerrillas in Montevideo." The morning newspaper devoted practically its entire front page and all of pages 2 and 3 to the subject.

According to the newspaper's director, who yesterday reported that a second communique would be published, newspaper reporters were taken in a closed pick-up truck to a place where there were two women and one man.

The three, who did not seem older than 35, claimed to belong to the FRP and spoke with an Argentine "accent." The reporters could not see where they had been taken.

One of the women, "Marga," was the spokesperson. In the presence of the reporters, she erased a cassette, the contents of which she had copied in five pages of her own handwriting. It was the text of Communique No 2.

LA REPUBLICA director Federico Fasano added that none of the three terrorists wanted to make any statement, although at the request of the reporters they agreed to consult as to whether they could grant an interview in the future.

Sources close to LA REPUBLICA—a morning newspaper that appeared last year in Montevideo—have said the director of the newspaper is very confident about the possibility of publishing in the next few days an interview with some of the Argentine terrorists.

The sources added that the FRP material is not handled by just any newspaper employee, and that contacts with the group seem to be handled by Fasano and two of his trusted editors.

Dr Fasano Mertens, an Uruguayan who has lived in exile in Mexico, also lived in Buenos Aires between 1984 and 1986, where he published a Spanish version of the French newspaper "LE MONDE DIPIOMATIQUE," although he did not do it for long, apparently because of problems with executives of "LE MONDE" of Paris. Fasano was also associated with advertising activities in some Argentine media.

Before returning to Montevideo—where he is believed to have arrived at the end of 1987—Fasano visited Cuba and then returned to Mexico.

Uruguayan Government circles this morning expressed some concern over the dissemination of reports on the Argentine group by LA REPUBLICA. A court investigation into the case could even be possible.

Interior Secretary Comments

PY1502183489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1542 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM)—Interior Secretary Ricardo Gil Lavedra has ruled out a possible investigation of the alleged execution of terrorists arrested after the La Tablada incident, which was reported by a newspaper, because "an investigation such as that must have some solid evidence to support it."

Asked by a Radio Mitre reporter to comment on a communique of the self-styled "Popular Revolutionary Front" that was published today by Montevideo's LA REPUBLICA, Gil Lavedra said he did not think "the communique was enough to justify an investigation."

Asked if he thought there could be a link between those responsible for the communique—the second one published by the Uruguayan newspaper—and those responsible for the attack on La Tablada, the interior secretary said, "Without a doubt there is a link." When the reporter pointed out that the communique mixed false and real information, Gil Lavedra said: "That is true."

Regarding the names that appear in the communique, Gil said: "Some names are similar, but we cannot be sure."

Asked about a possible link between this group and the incident at the 141st Arsenal Battalion in Cordoba, Gil said: "We do not have any serious indication to confirm that." Gil then added that "the Rio Cuarto [Cordoba] incident is not totally clear yet;" therefore, it is necessary to move "with caution until the investigation throws more light on the incident."

Menem Denies Making Remark on Falklands

PY1502180989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Justicialist Party candidate Carlos Menem this morning made it clear that at no time did he say it was necessary to wage a war against the United Kingdom to recover the Malvinas Islands, adding that he used a metaphor in his warning. He charged the Radical Party with distorting his remarks, despite the fact that his remarks were reported by all news agencies and by the press at large. Menem said he would make public tape recording of his speech in Ushuaia. He complained about the different treatment some media have given the other presidential candidates. [passage omitted]

Radical Civic Union candidate Eduardo Angeloz has said in connection with the statement by Carlos Menem in Ushuaia that not one more drop of Argentine blood should be shed. During a press conference in Cipolletti, at the end of a tour of Rio Negro and Neuquen towns, Angeloz said that Argentines have already suffered too many dead, too much bloodshed, and too much pain, and that no one could propose another adventure like the one of 1982. He said there are situations that show how such conflicts can be solved through diplomatic channels, like UN Resolution No 2,065, which was issued at the time of the government of Arturo Illia, which states that the conflicting parties should establish the factors involved in the recovery of the Malvinas by Argentina.

Cesar Jaroslavski, who heads the Radical bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, said the remarks by Menem are deplorable and irresponsible, and require prompt rectification if Menem is not to be considered a mental defective. [passage omitted]

Joint Maneuvers With Brazil, Spain Authorized

PY1502001589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2255 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Executive Branch has issued a decree authorizing the Argentine Navy ships "Drummond" and "Granville" to participate in the "Fraterno XI" and "Iberia" maneuvers to be held with the navies of Brazil and Spain.

The itinerary for these maneuvers will include Puerto Belgrano, Rio de Janeiro, Recife, Las Palmas, and Cadiz. The ships will then return to their home ports.

The maneuvers will begin on 15 February and will end on 15 April. [passage omitted]

Black Market Dollar Rate Nearly Doubles

PY1502162889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] The black market dollar rose to a high of 27.70 australs (buy) and 28 australs (sell) yesterday as investors pulled out of fixed-term deposits rather than renew them for another week. Operators with 100,000-500,000 austral fixed-term deposits withdrew their capital and invested in dollars and dollar-denominated bonds, thus causing the black-market dollar exchange rate to surge upward.

By offering a new free-rate dollar-backed bond—Ledol 89—the Central Bank took some 3.2 billion (thousand million) australs out of circulation yesterday to cover the domestic debt.

At the same time, the Central Bank devalued the commercial austral by 0.41 percent, setting the exchange rate at 14.45 australs (buy) and 14.54 australs (sell) at the official exchange rate.

Despite the devaluation, the gap between the commercial and black-market dollar exchange rates widened to 92.5 percent, implying that the black market rate was worth nearly double the commercial rate.

Meanwhile, interest rates skyrocketed to an average of 19.6 percent—almost four points above Monday.

Fixed-term rates climbed to 12.29 for small deposits and 18.9 percent for large investments.

Loan rates jumped up to 20.8 percent.

Call money—interbank lending—shot up to 21.3 percent for first-line institutions and 22.7 percent for second-line institutions.

Further on Dollar Rise

PY1602010789 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] We are now going to listen to a report from mobile unit no 1 by Nestor Esclausero, who is reporting from the banking and money exchange area. He is going to tell us what is happening with the dollar and interest rates, although we know that both are on the rise. Is this trend still on, Nestor?

[Begin report] [Esclausero] The U.S. dollar continues to climb in the Buenos Aires City District, that is, at the main money exchanges in the federal capital. As it did yesterday, the U.S. dollar today had higher rates in opening operations. In early operations, the U.S. dollar buying rate was 29.20 australes and the selling rate was 29.40 australes. As of this report, these rates are still in effect. [passage omitted]

Regarding interest rates, rather large operations are now being concluded at a 16-percent monthly rate; that is, the same rate that was in effect late yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Central Bank has decided to call for bids for three series of bonds totaling 2.5 billion australes. These bonds will be adjusted on the basis of variations among the commecial, special, and free dollar rates. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] We understand there is a meeting under way at the Economy Ministry. Have you heard any report there at the City? We have tried to contact Central Bank President Machinea and some Central Bank board members, but we were told that they are now meeting with Economy Minister Sourrouille.

[Esclausero] Yes. We confirmed this meeting a few minutes ago. During our tour of the City we stopped at the Economy Ministry, where we were told that Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea is now meeting with Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille. Because we have only sketchy reports, we do not know whether this is a regular or an unscheduled meeting. We will have to wait to see if a report is released on the topics discussed at this meeting. [passage omitted] [end report]

Machinea has stated that the economic team will not be changed despite the current financial difficulties, because, he said, measures have been taken to prevent an upsurge of inflation.

Machinea said it was necessary to implement the recent measures concerning the monetary exchange market because, he said, the pressure on the reserves was becoming unbearable.

Machinea also said that even if the increase in the cost of living reaches a two-digit figure in February, inflation will eventually drop to a one-digit figure because there are no reasons for inflation to skyrocket in the short term.

Machinea added that the monetary policy will continue to follow a hard line in the next few months. He said that it is not possible to make further structural changes in the public sector.

Brazil

GATT To Hear Complaint on U.S. Trade Measures

PY1502140289 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Report by correspondent Gustavo Mariani]

[Text] [Announcer] Trade retaliations and protectionism—these two items [preceding word in English] will bring Brazil and the United States face to face at the GATT meeting in Geneva next Wednesday.

Brazil will insist that judgment be passed on a U.S. Government decision to retaliate against Brazilian exports to the United States with taxes worth $39 million.

[Mariani] Brasilia does not fear the fact that the size of the U.S. market—the world's largest—could prevent the other GATT members from voting favorably to the Brazilian petition.

Sebastiao do Rego Barros, the Foreign Ministry under secretary general for economic and trade affairs, has said that the $39 million in taxes imposed on Brazilian exports to the United States does not represent much, but it indicates that these items must be discussed.

[Begin Rego Barros recording] In the first place, Brazil cannot accept another country taking unilateral measures concerning Brazilian exports without a legal (?arrangement)—this is one fact.

The second fact is that exports.... [changes thought] precisely exports that were growing, as in the case of paper and cellulose exports, for example, exports that grew more than 100 percent last year and this year would have experienced a fantastic growth rate. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

If the Brazilian petition is not approved at the GATT, a three-man panel, including international trade experts, will be formed to pass judgment on the controversies between Brazil and the United States.

Stroessner's Son Leaves Itumbiara Guest House

PY1602021889 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 89 p 5

[Excerpts] Itumbiara—Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Stroessner, oldest son of Paraguay's deposed president, Alfredo Stroessner, left the Furnas Electric Company guest house in Itumbiara, Goias State before dawn yesterday. This gave rise to rumors that the former dictator, who was granted asylum in Brazil 10 days ago, is about to make a decision on his future.

Yesterday afternoon, Itamaraty confirmed that Col Stroessner had left the house where he was lodged. Itamaraty explained that since the colonel is not in Brazil as a political exile, he is free to move. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry kept the destination of Stroessner's son a secret. According to a diplomatic source, however, he may have gone to Sao Paulo.

Col Stroessner left Itumbiara at 0345 [0645 GMT] in a vehicle owned by Furnas Electric Company, accompanied by a driver and two security agents. He sat in the front seat and kept his head down to avoid the journalists who stood around the house all night. The vehicle headed for Goiania, where Col Stroessner was to board a private plane at the Santa Genoveva International Airport. Airport personnel refused to say anything about his presence there and even less about the destination of the former Paraguayan dictator's son.

Furnas officials said that the colonel was expected to be back tonight in Goiania, from where he would return to Itumbiara. This increases speculation that Alfredo Stroessner may have already chosen where he intends to reside permanently. [passage omitted]

The former Paraguayan president's favorite son is an Air Force officer, 45, noted for his reserved character. He has been acting as his father's intermediary in phone conversations with trusted friends and military officers in Paraguay. In his country, Col Stroessner is accused of being involved in drug trafficking and illegal bidding for public works construction.

Unions Schedule General Strike for 14-15 March

PY1502145989 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Feb 89 p B-1

[Excerpts] Brasilia—The two largest labor unions in the country yesterday decided in Brasilia to promote a general strike on 14 and 15 March. The decision was made unanimously at a meeting of leaders of 50 representative union organizations in the country, half of them members of the Sole Central Organization of Workers [CUT] and the other half members of the General Central Organization of Workers [CGT]. The labor movement's main demand will be a salary increase to regain the purchasing power lost when the "Summer Plan" was implemented.

On 15 March, the general strike command, made up of seven representatives of each union, will assess the 14 to 15 March strike and might decide on an extension. The dates were chosen at the recommendation of the Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies [DIEESE], which proposed the strike be held immediately after the payment of salaries for February (paid in the first half of March). [passage omitted]

The director of DIEESE presented these arguments last week in Sao Paulo to the CUT national board, which endorsed the proposal. This facilitated a consensus with the CGT. [passage omitted]

New Chamber of Deputies Chairman Elected

PY1602010989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo in Portuguese 2255 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Summary] Paes de Andrade, PMDB, has been elected chairman of the Chamber of Deputies. He replaces Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes.

Nelson Carneiro Elected Senate President

PY1602120189 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Feb 89

[Summary] Rio de Janeiro Senator Nelson Carneiro has been elected president of the Senate. He replaces Senator Humberto Lucena.

Congress Approves Temporary Economic Measures

PY1502170289 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Congress has approved four of the six temporary measures included in the summer economic plan.

Measure No 26, concerning the privatization of the state-owned enterprises, was rejected. Another measure, concerning the abolishment of ministries, was not approved because there was no quorum.

Authorization for the privatization of state-owned enterprises was rejected by the Chamber of Deputies in a 350 to 77 vote.

The following councils and secretariats subordinate to ministries were abolished: the SUNAMAM [National Superintendency of the Merchant Marine], the Projeto Rondon and Petronio Portela foundations, the SUDHEVEA [Superintendency of the Rubber Industry], and the IBDF [Brazilian Forestry Development Institute].

Through a note, the SUDESUL [Superintendency of the Southern Region] was removed from measure No 28. Thus, the SUDESUL has been kept.

Congress also approved a measure that forbids public servants who are members of state agencies to receive gratuities.

In an agreement to prevent a measure abolishing the Science and Technology, Agrarian Reform, Administration, and Irrigation Ministries from being voted on, the quorum was dissolved, with only 102 deputies remaining in session. This agreement will permit new negotiations on this topic, which must be resubmitted by the government. If the measure were rejected, the topic could not be discussed again by Congress.

After completing his task, Senator Humberto Lucena recalled that this was his last session as president, and he pledged to work hard on the terms of the measures during the sessions.

The official position at Planalto Palace on the measures approved by Congress will be announced today.

President Jose Sarney, who yesterday monitored from his office the congressional vote on the measures, refused to make any remarks before all the measures were voted on.

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Henrique de Almeida Santos emphasized the importance of the Congress, which voted on the measures during a special session.

[Begin Almeida recording] I believe that, in principle, Congress is well aware, as I just said, of the importance of those economic policy measures. This is a serious

struggle that we hope will finally defeat inflation. Congress will discuss the measures that the Brazilian citizens [words indistinct] to finally defeat the evil that inflation has brought upon the lives of many Brazilians. [end recording]

Concerning the status of the temporary measure on the abolishment of ministries, the spokesman said the government did not act lightly when it decreed the closing of those ministries.

In conclusion, spokesman Almeida said this measure was necessary within the summer economic plan in order to demonstrate that the government is doing its part to curb the public deficit.

Chile

Pinochet Blames Defeat on Foreign Money

PY1502132289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] President Pinochet has urged government followers and supporters to win the December 1989 elections. He said we must recover from what happened in the plebiscite, when the opposition won with foreign aid. Our correspondent Graciela Contreras will give us further details on this from Temuco.

[Contreras] President Pinochet has urged citizens to recover from the plebiscite and find a way to be successful in our new commitment this year, referring to the forthcoming presidential and congressional elections. The president of the Republic harshly criticized those who used aid from abroad to win the plebiscite. He also criticized the nations and organizations that gave that help to the opposition.

Pinochet made these remarks in his first public meeting with the people of this region, during a luncheon at the art gallery in Temuco. [passage omitted]

Pinochet added that the October plebiscite was lost because of politicians who went to beg for aid abroad. This is why we were defeated, he said, because these gentlemen sold themselves abroad to get money. President Pinochet therefore urged citizens not to worry, but to join forces, struggle, and win the next elections. [passage omitted]

PDC Leader Answers Pinochet

PY1502181489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Arica Christian Democratic Party President Humberto Panza has stated that in the 5 October 1988 plebiscite, 4 million Chilean citizens said no to the continuation of the current regime. Panza was referring to President Augusto Pinochet's remarks in Temuco that his plebiscite defeat was due to foreign and church aid received by the opposition.

[Begin Panza recording] Regarding the remarks by Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte that the opposition won the plebiscite on 5 October 1988 due to foreign aid, I would like to tell him from here, from the northernmost tip of the fatherland, where Chile begins, in Arica, that 4 million Chilean citizens were the ones who said no to the continuation of this deplorable government that the captain general has been heading for 16 years. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Pinochet Rallies Supporters in Lautaro

PY1602012789 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet has warned the people about the danger of allowing the country to be run by people or groups who wish to reduce the Constitution to ashes or to modify it.

The chief of state spoke in a ceremony to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the city of Lautaro, in the Ninth Region.

In the local main square, Lautaro Mayor Marta Saenz gave the president the key to the city. Pinochet is already an illustrious son of the city of Lautaro.

In his address to the people, Gen Pinochet told them to remain alert for those who do not believe in freedom. He also asked them to mediate on the important decision they must make in the December elections.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Our future development could be in serious danger if the government were run by people or groups whose purpose, as they themselves have stated, is to reduce to ashes or to modify (?substantially) the current institutional and political instrument.

This would not only have deadly consequences for the (?national) process, but it could affect the personal situation of each inhabitant, worker, and family in Chile. [end recording]

Pinochet then said that every Chilean is responsible for continuing with our task. The country demands that all of you from this priviledged region work for our national greatness, he said.

Gen Pinochet is touring the Araucania Region, which is the only one where the yes option won in the past plebiscite.

The president told his supporters in Lautaro not to hesitate in working for an absolute majority in next December's general elections. Gen Pinochet spoke this afternoon in the local (?city hall). He said that if we do not work (?hard), we will fall into chaos, and we shall be destroyed and turned over to other countries.

Pinochet said that we all remain astonished by the victory of that majority on 5 October. However, he said, from his point of view, the no-vote victory was not a clean one. This is because that victory he said, results from 15 years of agreession against the government by Radio Moscow.

He added that the no-vote victory was supported by a few million dollars that some U.S. Government men gave to the politicians, who were also given money from Germany, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, and Italy.

The president said that the opposition was also helped with money from other South American countries. He has evidence of this: a copy of a Chilean politician's thank-you letter, sent to him from Caracas.

Gen Pinochet added that the government officials are men of principles, who do not accept (?bribes). They are not empty images, like those politicians who destroyed democracy in 1973 and who in 1989 appear smiling with expressions of victory.

Pinochet said that the opposition wishes to destroy the country and turn Chileans into slaves. That is why his followers must not fail to work for an absolute majority in the next elections.

After making these statements, the president departed for the city of (Vilicun), on this 7-day tour to the Ninth Region.

Msgr Valech Refuses to Hand Over Medical Files

PY1502232189 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Upon leaving the Vicariate of Solidarity offices, Ad Hoc Military Prosecutor Sergio Cea stated that Msgr Sergio Valech has performed the role of a bishop. Cea was unable to confiscate the Vicariate of Solidarity's medical files.

Cea told the press that Msgr Valech, pleading reasons of conscience, refused to hand over the medical files that Cea had ordered to be confiscated. These files belong to people who were shot and who were assisted by the Vicariate of Solidarity in 1985 and 1986.

Since early morning, several policemen have been guarding the main square.

Cea entered the Vicariate of Solidarity offices at 0906, at a time when few people were on the streets near the Vicariate.

Accompanied by a court secretary named Palominos and two witnesses, Cea visited the Vicariate in compliance with a Supreme Court order. Vicar Sergio Valech and Vicariate Executive Secretary Enrique Valech were present as observers.

While the judge carried out the court order for nearly 30 minutes, Santiago Auxiliary Bishops Jorge Hurtoni and Patricio Infante, San Felipe Bishop Msgr Manuel Camilo Vial, Valdivia Bishop Msgr Alejandro Jimenez—who arrived later—and Santiago Pastoral General Vicar Msgr Christian Precht met in an adjoining room.

During the court-ordered meeting, Bishop Sergio Valech, pleading reasons of conscience, refused to hand over the medical files. [passage omitted]

Government Not To Comment

PY1502201089 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Miguel Angel Poduje, minister secretary general of the government, today said that it is not the government's responsibility to make a statement on the case of the Vicariate of Solidarity. He added that this issue is the responsibility of the court, which is independent of the executive branch.

Regarding the electoral law under study, he said that he hopes that the government junta will approve it next March. [passage omitted]

Party for Democracy Names Executive Board

PY1602013789 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Feb 89 p C-2

[Excerpt] The Party for Democracy [PPD] yesterday named its national executive board and its political committee without voting on a request by Ricardo Lagos, who emphasized the pluralistic nature of the party.

The executive board and the committee were installed in a meeting of the 32 members of the central leadership and the 13 PPD regional presidents who were elected in the party elections on 29 January 1989.

The members of the executive board, which is made up of 6 people, are also on the 15-member political committee. The political committee is made up of seven socialists, two militants of MAPU [United Popular Action Movement], two rightists, and three independents [numbers as published].

Ricardo Lagos, national director of the Socialist Party splinter group headed by Ricardo Nunez [PS-Nunez], will remain PPD president for the next 2 years, after being reelected last January by 98 percent of the votes. The election for party president was held separately from the election for other posts, and Lagos was the only candidate.

The PPD Executive Board, elected yesterday, is now made up of the following members: Ricardo Lagos as president; Armando Jaramillo (right), Oscar Guillermo

Garreton (MAPU), and Carlos Ominami (PS-Nunez) as vice presidents; Jorge Schaulsohn (former Radical Party member) as secretary general; and Pilar Armanet as national treasurer.

The PPD political committee is made up of the following members: Ricardo Nunez (PS-Nunez), Hernan Vodanovich (PS- Nunez), Monica Silva (PS-Nunez), Jaime Estevez (PS-Nunez), Aniceto Rodriguez (PS) [Socialist Party], Maria Maluenda (former Communist Party member), Sergio Bitar (former Christian Left member), Victor Manuel Rebolledo (former Radical Party member), and Guillermo del Valle (MAPU). [passage omitted]

Bomb Explodes Outside Border Police Offices
PY1502140989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] A bomb explosion caused considerable property damage at the offices of the border police located at 1274 Rosas Street in Santiago.

The explosion took place at 2150 last night, damaging windows of several stores and residential buildings in the downtown area.

The bomb, approximately 250 grams of TNT, was planted on the sidewalk outside the border police offices. [passage omitted]

Trafficker With 4 kg of Cocaine Arrested
PY1602024589 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Summary] A Colombian woman named (Flor Marina Ducuara), 35, was placed at the disposal of the court this afternoon for transporting 4 kg of cocaine. She was arrested by the Santiago Interpol and the Antinarcotics Brigade as she was entering the country from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. She said she belongs to the Medellin cartel and that she was supposed to travel to Amsterdam.

*** Officials, Others Debate Human Rights Issues**

*** Politicians, Army Comment**
33480088 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 5 Jan 89 pp 34-36

[Text] Almost 6 of every 10 persons who voted no in the plebiscite did so because of "human rights." Plain and simple.

"For reasons of conscience," argued some who, although they do not share the views of leftist groups, which were the hardest hit, feel that the issue of human-rights violations is very important.

No one would dare say the opposite today. Some of the wounds have healed; others are still open.

The question is how the issue will be dealt with politically. Political groups are engaged in semantic, legal, ethical and tactical discussions. And even if they represent about 5 percent, they will have to convince the voters that "their" proposed solution will not harm the stability of the democratic system.

Definitions

The Universal Declaration of the United Nations, signed by the international community 40 years ago, speaks of human rights violations only when they are committed by the state (individuals commit crimes). And government officials would be responsible for any violation. In any event, this would seem to be the prevailing interpretation on the matter.

And a delicate matter it is, because when the talk turns to sanctions, a finger is being pointed indirectly at the collaborators of the military regime. The armed forces and the forces of public order too.

Who remembers the human rights of the victims of terrorism, allege others. Can we speak of defending the human rights of an individual who feels that it is permissible to plant bombs for the good of his cause? Are terrorists common criminals or should they be treated differently?

On the other side of the problem is the Group of Family Members of Political Prisoners, who are demanding the immediate release of 500 persons jailed for a variety of crimes.

Alicia Lira, the president of the group, contends that their imprisonment is unjust "because they acted in defense of the people against repression." She is trying to convince politicians to second her motion to have them all released right away. She acknowledges, however, that she has not received the support she expected, except, of course, from United Left.

Ricardo Lagos told her that each case would have to be looked at, and the DC [Christian Democracy] would rather see them tried in court.

This semantic problem, to give it a name, is just one case in point.

Many other differences will come to light when the politicians begin their debate. There are, in fact, already disagreements over how to deal with and interpret the 1978 Amnesty Law.

A Weapon of Pain

Andres Dominguez, from the Chilean Human Rights Commission, indicates that "a violation of human dignity is not a crime with a political effect; it is a deep wound in the foundation of social relations." He adds that the issue must not become a short-lived grievance.

A member of the same commission confided to QUE PASA that "it hurts to see the suffering of an individual used as a weapon against the government." It a shows a complete lack of understanding, he opined.

Most Chilean politicians have referred to the issue on some occasion. Dominguez acknowledges that more time is needed for the society to understand what respecting human rights means. Nevertheless, he thinks that Chile has made quite a bit of progress.

A ranking is in order here. Historian Gonzalo Vial asserts that some human rights are undoubtedly more important than others, like the right to life. Vial is emphatic: "The torture or 'administrative' killing (political murder committed by police services) of human beings never has been and never will be licit or excusable or even 'explainable' (a hypocritical ambiguity) nor is it beneficial in the short, medium or long term for anything or to anyone during any emergency anywhere."

The debate starts here.

Neither Argentina nor Uruguay. It is true that there are disagreements over how to sanction those responsible for human rights violations. It is a widespread opinion, however, that our case is not the same as Argentina's or Uruguay's.

Chile has an advantage over those two countries, which have not yet entirely resolved the problem.

In Uruguay the "Punto Final" [period, full stop] pact was signed, turning over a new leaf and wiping the slate clean. Nevertheless, leftwing sectors gathered signatures and have managed to have a repeal of the pact put to a plebiscite. That would allow for the prosecution of military personnel.

In Argentina, President Alfonsin has faced three military uprisings whose roots can be traced to the same issue. There, the highest military officers were prosecuted thanks to the "Due Obedience Law." Moreover, the magnitude of the military regime's violations became known only under democracy.

Here, in contrast, the complaints, whether they have gotten anywhere or not, have been made known to the courts and to public opinion from the start. Both the Vicarship of Solidarity and the Chilean Human Rights Commission are keeping the voluminous files of well-documented complaints under lock and key, and thus the issue of human rights violations has ceased to be "taboo."

What we need to know now is whether our politicians can come up with a formula that will prevent the crimes committed from going unpunished, administer justice, stave off vengeance and safeguard respect for human rights in the future.

Seeking the Truth

"Truth, justice and forgiveness" is the motto of almost all opposition political sectors. Even National Renewal could be included. Their minor differences are over whether all cases ought to be investigated, even the ones that come under the amnesty law, to find out who did what, even if afterwards the sanction is not applied. Or else whether the regular courts should investigate only the criminal acts committed as of 11 September 1978 to identify and punish those responsible, whether they are civilian or military personnel.

In this regard, there is agreement in acknowledging both the international commitments that the country has signed to promote respect for human rights and the National Accord that was signed in 1985.

As the president of Christian Democracy (DC), Patricio Aylwin, said on "De cara al pais" [Face the Nation], "reconciliation cannot be achieved except on the basis of justice. And justice entails revealing the truth. There can be no vengeance, but not a sweeping pardon either. Once the truth is known, there can be forgiveness." PPD [Party for Democracy] leader Ricardo Lagos said something similar: "No one wants revenge. We want justice, as the Church has said, we want to know the truth. To know the criminal act, who is responsible and the corresponding penalty. But not to enforce it."

The UDI [Independent Democratic Union] also agrees with the first part of this approach: everything that happened after the amnesty "is subject to prosecution by the appropriate courts." They even admit that "in the task of clarification the contribution that the police agencies are supposed to make to the Judicial Branch has been inadequate." According to the president of the UDI, Jaime Guzman, however, "those who say that they need to know who is guilty so that they know whom to pardon do not have the slightest intention of doing so, because revenge and getting even are behind this approach."

Lastly, although the Nationalists do not recognize the primacy of international law over domestic law, Pablo Rodriguez, the group's presidential candidate, indicated that he thinks that it is important to investigate and prosecute everything that was not accorded amnesty. Investigating what happened before has no real purpose in his eyes, "except to engage in masochism."

Trial of Armed Forces?

With regard to the possibility of trying the armed forces, there is also quite of bit of agreement among moderate sectors. No one wants to undertake collective trials of military personnel. Guzman reassures them: "Those who assert that the issue of human rights is a touchy one for the armed forces are hinting that consciously or unconsciously they intend to regard the current government as the victimizer vis-a-vis supposedly innocent

victims who have allegedly suffered human rights violations. This approach is biased, and therefore the armed forces and Carabineros are institutionally not at any risk and cannot be placed in the defendant's seat."

Aylwin: "The institutions are not on trial, but whoever turns out to be responsible will be."

Lagos: "I think that this is an issue on which we must seek an understanding among all Chileans so that we can address it seriously."

Luis Maira, the head of PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left]: "In no instance can there be institutional responsibilities. All responsibility in such cases is individual." He is seconded by Communist Jaime Inzunza: "We are not proposing that the armed forces as a whole are responsible for the crimes committed. The guilty parties are specific individuals, who must be punished to salvage the values that the armed forces have forgotten and that they must recover in a democratic future."

As General Nicanor Diaz E., retired, the first defense chief of staff under this government and coordinator of security services, told QUE PASA, "if the trials are conducted objectively, they cannot have grave consequences for the armed forces, because the investigation and determination of responsibilities would touch only a very small number of men in uniform."

In spite of the above statements, the thinking in the Chilean Human Rights Commission goes something like this: under international law there are violations of human rights that are regarded as crimes against humanity (executions without trial, disappearances and arrests, systematic torture and deportations) and that cannot be amnestied. Moreover, the person who plans and decides who should carry out an action bears the ultimate responsibility, inasmuch as everyone who had some authority must be answerable for its use.

In other words, if this thinking prevails, according to Dominguez, then Pinochet, Fernandez and Contreras, among others, would necessarily have to be tried.

To date no one has openly accepted this position. Preventing this dormant volcano from erupting is the main task of our politicians in 1989.

[Box, p 35] The Position of the Armed Forces

For some time now the army has had a clearcut position on this issue.

Some days ago the High Command also chose the "candidate" who will give them guarantees and security in defense of their positions. He is the army's new judge advocate general, Colonel Fernando Torres Silva.

The ad hoc prosecutor has been "the man" in the legal arena who, according to his supporters, has always gone all out for his institution. And this argument, even if it was not decisive, prevailed.

From a legal standpoint, the outlook for the Armed Forces is clear on this issue. The arguments are based on the drawing of a line: before and after the 1978 amnesty law. As far as the former period (1973-1978) is concerned, their position is quite categorical: no accusations of any kind are in order. Chile was at war against Marxism, they say. The law provided for an amnesty of reconciliation. And there is nothing more to be said. It was mentioned to them that some parties are, in fact, in favor of discussing whether to repeal this law in a future congress. The response: even so, the statute of limitations on the crimes has run out. Even in the case of missing detainees, they do not accept the legal interpretation that this is a "crime that persists in time until the individuals show up, dead or alive."

Moreover, as for incidents in which members of the armed forces may have been involved in recent times, they state that this is a matter for the courts of justice. And while the opposition is demanding that any trial must begin in regular courts, military sources disagree. "The military courts have jurisdiction to try in some cases. If this is the case, they must be passed on to the prosecutor's office, nowhere else."

[Box, p 36] Sizing up the Problem

These are statistics, numbers, figures; they enable us to size up the problem of the charges or complaints of human rights violations.

Missing Detainees: From 11 September 1973 to date, the Vicarship of Solidarity has recorded 682 certified cases before the courts of justice. It bears emphasizing that after 1978 there have been almost no complaints, except one isolated case in 1984 and the five persons kidnapped in September 1987 after the abduction of Commander Carreno.

1973	257
1974	222
1975	75
1876	109
1977	12
1978	1
1984	1
1987	5

Note: The complaints about the 119 who are missing in Argentina are not included. The 52 cases that have been cleared up have not been included either, as the remains of 15 persons were found in Lonquen, 19 in Yumbel and 18 in Mulchen.

Reports of Torture: Defining torture as subjecting detainees to physical and psychological pressure to obtain information, the Vicarship of Solidarity has reported a total of 367 cases to the courts from 1985 to *1988*.

1985	84
1986	132
1987	105
1988(*)	46
Total	367

* Includes only to August

Note: It bears emphasizing that in 1988 Military Justice requested that Judge Rene Garcia Villegas be disqualified from hearing the 20 or so cases in which the CNI [National Information Center] was charged with the crime of "applying torture."

Also related to this issue is the suit that Dr Pedro Marin filed against CNI agents in 1987 for the crime of sodomy, a case that is currently being heard.

Violent Deaths: The Vicarship of Solidarity includes in this statistic the deaths of civilians and men in uniform during presumed confrontations, due to the indiscriminate use of firearms by police and military officers, during crackdowns, during situations of violence inside police barracks, due to the explosion of bombs (both innocent victims and those carrying the devices) and slayings of policemen.

1984	85
1985	72
1986	65
1987	51
1988(*)	21
Total	294

* Only to August

Note: Regarding the 1988 figure, eight of the victims were members of the Armed Forces and police.

* Amnesty Law Criticized

33480088 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish
5 Jan 89 pp 37-39

[Report by Ana Veronica Pena and Cristina Ferrer: "Amnesty: a Law To Forget"]

[Text] When the government issued Decree Law No 2,191 on 18 April 1978, it argued that it was guided by a spirit of national reconciliation.

It bears emphasizing that the much talked about decree law was signed by the then Government Junta, consisting of Augusto Pinochet, Jose T. Merino, Gustavo Leigh and Cesar Mendoza. It also bears the signatures of Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez and Justice Minister Monica Madariaga.

In Article 1 it grants amnesty "to all persons who as perpetrators, accomplices or accessories may have committed criminal acts during the State of Siege from 11 September 1973 to 10 March 1978, as long as they are not currently on trial or have not been convicted." It then extends the benefit to "the persons who at the time that the present decree law takes effect have been convicted by military tribunals subsequent to 11 September 1973." Article 3 excludes all those convicted or accused of common crimes. Article 4 also excludes those connected with the trial for the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

According to some jurists, an amnesty expunges a crime. Therefore, it does not exist, nor can it be investigated judicially. Seeking to learn the truth so that the guilty party can later be pardoned would involve a law of pardon [ley de indulto], which is not the case.

Other scholars, in contrast, assert that by and large amnesty laws are issued when the perpetrator of the crime is known and that their legal effect is to expunge the crime and remit the penalty. In the case of Decree Law 2,191, the problem is that it was issued without anyone having been convicted.

And here is where the debate begins.

The Nationalist Stand

"We have an amnesty law until 1978 and we ought to bury the problem," Pablo Rodriguez, a presidential hopeful, stated recently when asked about the issue. He is unquestionably an advocate of "wiping the slate clean." When National Vanguard has referred to the issue, it has in general denied what happened or else justified it as part of a war against subversion. "...those who have exercised power since 11 September 1973 have their hands and consciences free of all guilt, and in the worst of cases these regrettable incidents (referring to the deaths at Lonquen and the Letelier affair) are cases in keeping with the times back then, and they did not have the slightest chance of preventing or making up for them." Rodriguez Grez said this in 1979 in LA TERCERA. Others, taking a similar but not as radical line, distinguish two stages in the normalization of the country. This is what the Independent Democratic Union [UDI] contends. To them the entire period from 1973 to the issuance of the Amnesty Law was a time of "acute emergency." They acknowledge that during this period serious violations of human rights that constitute crimes under traditional Chilean penal legislation were committed. But they justify them, asserting that "to have sought to wage this battle with methods befitting a normal

period would have meant succumbing to subversion and allowing Chile to be tainted with the blood of a fratricidal struggle or terrorist chaos," as Sergio Fernandez stated when he was interior minister and set forth the government's position on the complaints about the detainees who were missing in 1978.

The current president and ideologist of the UDI, Jaime Guzman, told QUE PASA, in keeping with Fernandez' spirit, that the 1978 law makes the problem a thing of the past because it expunges the crime and the penalty. And he adds: "The Amnesty Law has a moral value, inasmuch as it set a precise date for the end of the aftermath of the civil war." He goes on to say that the law had the virtue of being issued by a government that had years in power before it, inasmuch as amnesties are generally issued at the close of a regime to whitewash everything. Guzman also recalls that the amnesty benefited both sides and, for example, released the murderers of Lieutenant Lacrampette. Repeal it? According to him, every amnesty law is "by its very nature judicially unrepealable."

The Center-Right

In an interview published in August of this year the secretary general of National Renewal (RN), Andres Allamand, acknowledged that at first he thought that (the human rights violations) were "an inevitable consequence of a virtual civil war" but that in light of new background information, his way of looking at things had changed. Referring specifically to the case of the missing detainees who come under the Amnesty Law, according to a Supreme Court ruling, he indicated that it was necessary "to seek a solution equidistant from impunity and revenge."

He argues that without a thorough determination of accountability in these types of incidents, "a cloud would hang over" both the right that supported the regime politically but did not take part in these violations and the armed forces as an institution.

All in all, RN backs the judicial aspect and the spirit of reconciliation of the 1978 amnesty. He contends that repealing the law would reopen precisely the wounds that it sought to close.

However, attorney Ricardo Rivadeneira, who is also a member of RN, once stated that he personally thought that no amnesty law could work without an investigation of specific crimes and criminal accountability. He does not believe in the possibility of "wiping the slate clean" just like that, although he is not reluctant to discuss a broader amnesty law in the future. He does not, however, want such a law to exempt crimes committed by terrorists from the appropriate criminal penalties.

As far as the National Party (PN) is concerned, "because of the system of government that we have and because of the circumstances under which the current system arose, no one unfortunately can deny that human rights have been transgressed in Chile." Carman Sainz explained it thus in 1987. The PN accepts the blame for not having raised its voice, but as Tomas Puig argued in 1986, "we did not have access to the press and we did not have power either. It was not up to us."

Within this framework, the PN, before the split between Riesco's and Phillips' people, was the only rightist party that signed political commitments with other opposition groups. We can deduce from the most recent one, signed in August 1988, that it rejects the amnesty law and is in favor of suspending the statute of limitations in some cases, such as the missing detainees.

There is a great deal of common ground between the Republicans and Liberals in the area of human rights. Although neither of these groups has taken a stand specifically on the Amnesty Law, they have clearly come out in favor of the motto "truth and justice" coined by the Catholic Church.

"Without justice there is no law; without law social organization is impossible. Crimes must be investigated and punished," said a Liberal.

And What About the Opposition?

There is apparently a consensus among the opposition on the pending situations that this government may bequeath in the field of human rights violations. Last August 17 political groups signed a commitment promoted by the Group of Family Members of Missing Detainees. In point three of the document, the important part, they assert that "the effects of the Amnesty Law will be annulled in the trial investigations connected with the missing detainees, to which end the most effective judicial mechanisms must be sought, as well as a commitment not to enact laws of impunity in the future."

It was signed by the parties in United Left (including the Movement of the Revolutionary Left and the Communist Party), those in the Party for Democracy, the Greens and the Humanists.

Christian Democracy [DC] did not sign, but the JDC [Christian Democratic Youth] did. The acting DC officers got off the hook elegantly by claiming that they had already signed enough documents in that regard, while reaffirming their complete support for the commitment they signed in the 1985 National Accord. Only, the latter does not mention the Amnesty Law.

The real reason why they did not sign (and this also explains the minor differences that exist among the opposition) is the "political realism" of each sector.

Some contend that no political stability is possible if we start by repealing such an important law. Hence, as far as seeking judicial mechanisms to achieve the aforementioned goal is concerned, there are different viewpoints and answers. All of these ideas would naturally be subjects for discussion in a future parliament.

For All Tastes

One idea would be to issue an "interpretative law" for the Amnesty Law that would make sure that the truth is known. This scenario would prompt fewer suspicions among the more moderate sectors of the opposition, although no one has spoken out publicly. The specific comment that is being heard is that the judicial panorama that would directly affect the missing detainees would need to be clarified once and for all. Under Chilean law, these cases ought to be classified as kidnappings...and there is no statute of limitations on kidnappings until the victim appears, dead or alive. This is the reason for the legal discussions that some criminal lawyers are conducting privately and as advisers to political parties.

Another proposal is to "disavow" this law so that the truth can be learned and later to discuss whether the guilty parties ought to be given amnesty, after a democratic consultation with the people.

In this regard the president of PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left], Luis Maira, contended to QUE PASA: "Taking a stand on amnesties, past or future, that benefit alleged perpetrators of human rights violations is not right until the facts are known."

Lastly, there are those who argue that the law must be completely repealed not just to learn the truth but also to apply the corresponding penalties to all guilty parties. Communist Jaime Inzunza, among others, takes this more radical position: "The future of this law is completely subordinate to the need to learn the truth and mete out justice. It will have to be revised under a democratic government, because no law whose purpose is to let crimes go unpunished can be positive."

Of course another source in the same group told QUE PASA that obviously "one can ask for too much" here. Explanation: they know that it is impossible to prosecute all of the crimes committed and to apply all the corresponding penalties. Where they are not prepared to compromise, they clarify, is in clearing up all those actions regarded as crimes against humanity, under the Human Rights Charter, such as: firing-squad executions without prior trial and forced disappearances, whether they were committed before or after 1978.

Decree Law 2,191 will clearly be a subject for debate in the future. For the time being each group will weigh the prudence and timeliness of defending each of its positions with a view towards the stability of the future democracy.

[Box, p 38] The Views of the Church

The Chilean Catholic Church has led the defense of human rights. Since the country's future is in the hands of the politicians, as the church itself acknowledges, in September 1988 it set forth, through the Vicarship of Solidarity, the criteria that in its judgment the political groups ought to bear in mind when the time comes "to seek ways of assuring the respect and promotion of human rights and of addressing the grave violations that took place during this period."

"In order for a policy dealing with past violations to be legitimate, it must:

"Be based on the public knowledge of the truth. Concealment of the truth perpetuates resentment and prevents reconciliation.

"Be a policy adopted through democratic mechanisms, by means that unmistakably reflect the sentiments of the majority of the population."

* Polls: Public Favors Center-Right Candidate

33480091 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish
29 Dec 88 pp 14-15

[Article by Luisa Garcia and Magdalena Walker: "The Inglorious Return of the Public Opinion Polls"]

[Text] Discredited, attacked, disputed, debated and challenged—opinion polls were the protagonists in the plebiscite, but they almost became a laughingstock in the end. After a 3-month absence, or a silent recovery of honor, they have returned to the attack.

It is indeed a fact that the task is doubly complex now. Apart from having to navigate through public skepticism, they will have to manipulate a list of those aspiring to the seat of O'Higgins—a list which up to the present has been interminable.

It is true that not all of the poll "experts" are on the scene again. The fact is that the "applause" they received during the plebiscite campaign ceased when the results became known and revealed their monstrous "blunders." Some have not yet raised their heads again, while others are beginning to peek forth with unaccustomed humility.

It is perhaps for this reason that the characteristic of the first polls after 5 October has been the secrecy, the extreme caution seen in the last 2 months in releasing the figures.

The Palace Secrets

The polls commissioned by the government provide a very eloquent example. At government headquarters, QUE PASA has been told, an effort is being made to prevent the public from learning the results of the four

surveys taken in Santiago in recent weeks by specialists at the University of Chile. The reports are being kept under locks with multiple keys, just as in the tales about beautiful princesses and evil kings.

At government headquarters, the ministers claim ignorance, and it is noted that this affair is being monopolized by Minister Caceres and his ad hoc deputy, Alvaro Donoso, who has his private operations center in the same office where the "yes" faction funds are controlled.

The secrecy, it was explained to us, is due to the fact that the government wants to avoid accusations of involvement in matters which, for now, pertain only to the politicians.

But obviously, Chile is Chile, and inevitably, thanks to rumors coming from the Moneda Palace itself, something has leaked out.

This is what QUE PASA has learned about the palace secrets:

- That to date, only surveys of the questionnaire type have been made. These are regarded as unreliable because, we were told, it has been found that with specific questions, about 35 percent of those interviewed lie in giving their answers.
- That election surveys will be made soon.
- That the "popularity" of some possible candidates was tested and some specific issues investigated, producing startling surprises.
- That the polls on constitutional amendments showed that about 50 percent of the people want change.
- And that of this 50 percent, 25 percent believe that the changes should be undertaken by the future parliament.

A Test Tube Baby?

One of the great unknown factors which the research centers must investigate (through the polls) is what the people expect of this bold fellow countryman who will be willing to wear the tricolor sash across his chest, supervised by the parliament and harassed by public opinion.

In other words, they must establish what has euphemistically come to be called "the ideal profile."

According to what our sources told QUE PASA, Gallup has also knocked on doors in Greater Santiago. During the first poll taken after 5 October, it is said that it was learned that the age of a potential candidate is one of the most important factors. Those questioned by Gallup favor a man in his 40s.

The polls commissioned by the government, our sources commented, proved what many had sensed. It would not work in Chile to propose a test candidate, a typical Chilean who would leave people content in every sector, an individual who would charm everyone.

In other words, the tastes of our compatriots are not so well defined that they can be provided with a presidential "menu," or what would also be possible, that we could become part of a nonconformist tribe, demanding and skeptical.

In any case, according to the government polls, the majority of those questioned would prefer a chief executive independent of the political parties.

On the other hand, the Gallup poll, we were told, showed that the majority of those questioned do indeed want a politician, but with one qualification—that he be of the "new" generation. It is not a question of a man younger than 40, "a test tube baby" (as one interviewer termed it humorously), but rather a representative of the new wave.

And, although by a narrow margin, those Gallup interviewed also favored a new man of the center-right.

Diagnos, which also made a survey in the capital in November, found that 42 percent preferred a candidate opposed to the present government, while 76 percent agree that the individual should be an experienced politician.

One of the most eagerly awaited assessments was that obtained by the Public Studies Center (CEP) in the early days of December, working with the Adimark enterprise. A sampling representing 47 percent of the electorate was taken in five urban centers. This survey showed that 26 percent want a political leader as a candidate; 49 percent favor an independent; 24 percent considered this issue unimportant; and 46 percent said they want the new resident of La Moneda Palace to be a man with political experience.

The CEP also asked questions about what tasks the voters want the next president to undertake. And this issue is obviously important when it comes to planning the campaigns and writing the speeches. Chileans want, first of all, an end to unemployment (51 percent); second, a reduction in poverty (49 percent); and third, improved health services (44 percent).

Farther down the list of tasks to be undertaken, they mentioned economic growth (27 percent), human rights (22 percent) and then, in decreasing order of importance, crime, housing, inflation, terrorism, constitutional amendments, safety and public order and a guarantee of the right of ownership. It should be noted that the issues mentioned last were cited as of vital importance in the plebiscite campaign, but apparently the citizenry now sees them as problems of lesser importance.

The economic situation is one of the issues which concerns the people most, and without a doubt, according to those interviewed by Gallup and Diagnos, it should have priority on the presidential candidates' agendas. In both cases, the majority favored introducing

changes into the present economic system. Where this issue is concerned, the CEP poll showed that 63 percent of the Chileans do not agree with the economic policy.

Unrecorded Preferences

With regard to political preferences, there is no written record, and apparently, the healthy thing would be to avoid writing down too much. There is immediate proof—Gallup reported that the people favor a center-rightist candidate. But when it came time to list the "chosen," the majority of those interviewed tended toward individuals on the center-left.

Is there a lack of available individuals on the right?

Meanwhile, Diagnos reported that if there were an election with two candidates, three-fifths of the voters would choose the representative of the opposition. In choosing the opposition candidate, only two-fifths favored a representative of the DC [Christian Democracy] (poll taken prior to the crisis). In choosing a man to represent the former "yes" faction, a third would prefer an independent, 7.6 percent said that they would like a representative of National Renewal, 4.7 percent would prefer a military officer, 3.9 percent a representative of the National Party, 2.5 percent a representative of the Union of the Democratic Left (UDI), and 1 percent a representative of National Advance.

Diagnos reported that in choosing the opposition candidate, more than half of those questioned assigned vital importance in winning the election to the personality of the candidate. Only a third expressed the belief that electoral victory would be guaranteed if the opposition offered only one candidate.

The CEP went into this matter rather deeply. It reported that 38 percent of those questioned favored a leftist government, while 44 percent preferred that the next administration be rightist. What is curious is that when it came to choosing between two candidates, those interviewed preferred one in the range from the center to the left (40 percent). When given a choice of three candidates, the 40 percent for the center-to-left range remained stable, with 30 percent favoring a candidate in the range between the center and the right and 12 percent favoring an individual identified with the present government.

When offered a choice of four candidates, it was a close race between the candidate of the center-left (30 percent) and the candidate of the center-right (27 percent).

The Profile of the Candidate

The list of names volunteered in the course of the various polls is a long one. None of them won a very overwhelming percentage, but the polls coincided in some ways. In other words, it can at least be said that there are two "established" candidates—Frei Ruiz Tagle, the proposed candidate who refused, and Buchi, the custom-tailored candidate and now the battlehorse.

The individual who led in all the polls is the son of former president Frei, who, paradoxically, withdrew his candidacy to pacify the smoke holes and craters of the Carmen 8 volcano. Gallup, QUE PASA was told, reported that about 24 percent favored the son of the former president, while Diagnos reported 18 percent and the CEP 22 percent. Next in popularity was Aylwin, with a little more than 9 percent, according to Gallup and Diagnos, and 11 percent, according to the CEP.

From there on there were discrepancies, although the names volunteered were the same in both surveys (see table).

How the Candidates Are Doing

	Gallup (%)	CEP (%)	Diagnos (%)
Frei	24	22	18
Aylwin	10	11	9.4
Lagos	5.4	8	4
Buchi	3.9	8	1.8
Jarpa	3.7	4	4.6
Valdes	1.8	3	3.8

(Source: Surveys taken in the months of November and December)

As can be seen, Buchi is the man, at least the one to represent the former supporters of the "yes" faction.

By means of qualitative questions, the CEP established that there is doubt as to how the shaggy-headed candidate would fare in the political contests. And it also made it clear that those surveyed did not associate the minister of finance with the economic problems.

The same poll showed a relationship between the individuals mentioned and the political inclinations of those questioned. Of those who voted "yes", 19 percent would certainly endorse Buchi, and—surprise!—15 percent would cast their vote for Frei. Also, 14 percent would vote again for Pinochet, and 10 percent would vote for Jarpa. Among those who voted "no" (out of conviction), Frei would win 28 percent of the votes, Aylwin 18 percent and Lagos 13 percent. Only 6 percent of those

who voted "no" with some doubt would cast their votes for a "yes" candidate—Buchi.

The strategists will also have to factor in the classification of Frei as a right-winger by 9 percent, and also, the fact that 13 percent see him as a man of the center-right. At the same time, Aylwin was seen as a rightist candidate by 8 percent, and as center-rightist by the same percentage. Buchi, for his part, is regarded by a majority (55 percent) as a rightist, as center-rightist by 12 percent, and as a centrist by only 4 percent. The president of National Renewal, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, is seen as in the political center by 12 percent, while 68 percent clearly see him as a rightist.

Familiarity of the Candidates

The CEP also designed its surveys to establish and define the degree to which the various personalities are known. Former presidents Frei and Alessandri, along with Cardinals Fresno and Silva Henriquez, ranked the highest, followed by Frei and Aylwin, and then Buchi, Lagos and Valdes, close together. Those forcefully "rejected" were Jarpa, the photogenic Pinera and the most recently announced candidtae, Sergio Diez. To a certain extent, the results of the Gallup poll, which included a question pertaining to the most disliked candidates, were similar.

According to our sources, Frei Ruiz Tagle was the individual with the fewest "antibodies," followed by Valdes, Zaldivar and Buchi (this last individual was rejected by about 19 percent). More than 20 percent would refuse to vote for Aylwin or Lagos. Obviously, those in greatest disfavor are Jarpa (more than 30 percent) and Pinochet (60 percent the negative votes).

The mysterious government polls showed that assessments varied with different alternatives. Frei would certainly win out over any contender. With Aylwin as a candidate, the opposition would also win, but by a very narrow margin. Given either option, Buchi would seem to be the best card for the former "yes" faction to play, followed by Jarpa.

In all of the surveys, we were told, Sergio Diez, who was announced as a candidate as this edition went to press, would win limited approval as "the unknown soldier."

No matter, one of his supporters assured us. The war of the polls will be a long one.

Paraguay

Christian Democratic Party Requests Recognition

PY1502015489 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 6

[Excerpts] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] yesterday presented a note to the electoral board to announce its decision to register legally. PDC leader Jorge Dario Cristaldo enclosed a copy of a similar note addressed to the interior minister last week. [passage omitted]

Cristaldo said that the PDC bases its decision to register legally before the national authorities on the statements made by Provisional President General Andres Rodriguez, who had said that all existing political parties had the right to participate in the 1 May elections, without exception. [passage omitted]

Judge Orders Inquest, Arrest of Former Ministers

PY1502020389 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 Feb 89 pp 22, 23

[Excerpt] Judge Eladio Duarte Carvallo has ordered a pretrial inquest and issued arrest warrants for Sabino Augusto Montanaro, Eugenio Jaquet, Mario Abdo Benitez, and Adan Godoy Gimenez—all of whom are "Militant" faction members of the former Colorado Party Executive Board. Clerk Elio Ovelas will be in charge of the case files. A few days ago, lawyer Pedro Abilio Rolon filed a lawsuit against Montanaro, Jaquet, Abdo, and Godoy, charging them with "illegal appropriation of public assets and of crimes against the public administration."

Judge Duarte has already sent a note to the Interior Ministry requesting their arrest. In fact, former Health Minister Godoy and former Presidential private secretary Abdo have already been deprived of their freedom. The former interior minister, Montanaro, has taken asylum in the Honduran Embassy, and the former justice minister, Jaquet, is abroad and presumed to be in Miami. [passage omitted]

Colorado Militant Movement Members Released

PY1502004789 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 14

[Text] Fifteen people who had been detained by the police and the army in several locations of the country have been released. All of them belong to the Colorado Militant Movement, which supported the ousted regime.

The following people have been released: Enrique Cantero, Rafael Monzon, Dario Filartiga, Julian Chaparro Abente, Dante Cazal, Leandro Prieto Yegros, Miguel Ramon Bogarin Molinas, Jacobo Arruabarrena, Alberto Stevens, Miguel Angel Fernandez, Jorge Enrique Dacak, Luis Gregorio Samudio, Bernardo Antonio Benegas, Miguel Otazu Montenegro, and Gerardo Sosa Argana. These names were provided by the Interior Ministry.

Colorado Party Officials, Labor Leaders Return

PY1502004489 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 10

[Excerpt] On 9 February, Guillermo and Marcelino Correa Martinez, members of the Unified Executive Board of the Colorado Party, returned to our country after living in exile in Montevideo for 29 years.

Marcelino Correa told HOY that the unification of the Colorado Party will not be an easy task because "Stroessnerism without Stroessner is in power."

"We believe that the Colorado Traditionalist Movement represents Stroessnerism, which is still in power. They took over the Colorado Party Executive Board after the coup led by General Rodriguez, and they are acting just as yesterday's thugs," Correa said. [passage omitted]

[Asuncion HOY in Spanish on 14 February on page 9 reports that "Julio Echeverry Espinola, Secretary General of the CPT [Paraguayan Confederation of Workers] in exile, and Pablo A. Aquino, a CPT member, have arrived in the country. It was learned that Bernardo Mendez Fleytas, brother of Epifanio Mendez [late Colorado Party leader] returned from Cordoba yesterday."]

'All' Licenses To Carry Weapons Revoked

PY1502002989 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 25

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry has issued Resolution No 4, by which all the licenses to carry weapons are revoked. This was reported yesterday by a Police Department public relations office communique. The resolution is meant for all the citizens of the Republic.

The communique states as follows: "In order to inform the public, the Police public relations office of this capital transcribes Resolution No 6 [figure as published] of the Interior Ministry, which states: "Interior Ministry, Resolution No 4. All the licenses issued by the Interior Ministry to carry weapons have been revoked." [passage omitted]

When asked whether the resolution also affects the police, police public relations chief Osvaldo Palacios Morinigo answered: "Yes, it also affect us." When asked whether the resolution also affects the Armed Forces, he said: "I cannot answer on their behalf." However, he added that he thought they were also affected by the measure.

Police Chief Palacios said that the resolution affects the licenses to carry weapons, not to possess them. If a person has a weapon in his home or workplace, he must register it and obtain a license for its possession. "It is like a property title," he said.

People Arrested for Sacking Jaquet House

PY1502174189 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
15 Feb 89 p 22

[Text] Acting criminal Judge Eladio Duarte Carballo has ordered the arrest of those involved in the breaking and entering and robbery of a house that belongs to former Labor Minister Eugenio Jaquet. Duarte Carballo has also established the date for the holding of a pretrial inquest.

This decision affects Adolfo Aguero, Antonio Gomez Ruiz, Antonio Ramirez Gomez, Benigno Melanio Sanchez, Nestor Fabio Medina, Ricardo Zarate, Hipolito Gomez, Antonio Rolon Almada, and Jose Meza. All of them have been arrested. The measure also affects Mirta Caballero, who is still at large.

The series of pretrial inquests starts today and will end on 20 February.

New Radio Primero de Marzo Department Chief

PY1502180289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
14 Feb 89 p 35

[Summary] On 13 February, Ernesto Garcia assumed the post of director of the Radio Primero de Marzo journalism department. It has been learned that this radio station will seek to maintain an objective stance.

Peru

Villanueva Says Cabinet Changes Coming

PY1502000789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Armando Villanueva del Campo, president of the Council of Ministers, announced today at noon that there will be some cabinet changes. However, he did not reveal which ministers will be removed. The cabinet change will not take place before fraternity day, in March.

Villanueva also labeled the murder of union leader Saul Cantoral by terrorists as genocide.

Terrorists Reportedly Kill Mineworkers' Leader

PY1402210489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Saul Cantoral Huamani, secretary general of the Peruvian Mineworkers Federation, was murdered last night together with a friend near the Huiracocha (?Regional) Park, in Zarate.

Cantoral was shot four times by alleged terrorists. His body is in the central morgue awaiting an autopsy. His relatives are demanding harsh punishment for his murderers.

Cantoral was murdered last night by a terrorist commando, who killed him and left his body near the Huiracochea Regional Park. An unidentified woman was also murdered with him. Cantoral was found in this empty plot late last night with four bullets in his back. He bore a sign accusing him of being an informer and of opposing the mineworkers' strikes. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister on Importance of Economic Pact
PY1502142489 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Economy Minister Carlos Rivas Davila has said the economic solidarity pact constitutes a historic landmark.

[Begin recording] [Rivas] The call we have made for an economic pact solidarity constitutes a historic landmark for the country, because for the first time workers, through their representative unions from the various political and labor sectors of the country; representative business organizations; and the government will meet around a table to discuss issues that concern everyone. We want to show that we can sit down to talk and reach an agreement to face the economic crisis.

We will discuss items that concern our exports, production, the supply of goods, and worker salaries. Each sector will commit itself to face its responsibility to combat the grave crisis facing Peru, particularly our fight against inflation.

[Unidentified reporter] What was the reaction of businessmen, workers, and the church?

[Rivas] The church will also be represented in the dialogue. Msgr Duran said he would personally attend. The other sectors have expressed their wish to participate in the dialogue, in this call for national unity. We think the meeting is important to show those who think a dialogue is impossible because of the electoral climate that we consider the people's interest above everything else.

The meeting will be held at 1700 tomorrow and all the representatives of the productive sectors will attend.

[Reporter] Mr Rivas, many people are concerned because the price of the dollar is dropping drastically. Does the drop in the exchange rate mean that the government's economic measures are working?

[Rivas] Those who are despairing are those who have speculated on the exchange rate. Many people were carried away by the predictions of people who thought we could not control the economic crisis, that there was no solution to the crisis.

We are implementing a very serious and responsible plan to control the essential elements that fuel inflation, like the problem of our fiscal deficit. We have not only reduced subsidies but also the pressure on the Central Bank. A complete explanation of the situation would get very technical.

We have also rationalized all government expenditures and implemented an improved tax collection mechanism. We are taking very positive steps, and I do not want to sound arrogant, but we are advancing despite all our difficulties. [end recording]